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The Lawrence-Towneley Estate Fraud

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In the 1850s, several members of the Bowden family of Virginia, North Carolina and elsewhere were approached with the following story:

Elias Bowden (1763-1843), ancestor of the Bowden family in question, had married a woman named Celia Lawrence (1768-1852). This Celia Lawrence's parents were John Lawrence and Mary Towneley, who had eloped in England and fled to Virginia because John's family was Protestant, and Mary's Catholic, and Mary's father would not agree to the union. As it turned out, Mary's father, the very wealthy Sir Richard Towneley, later regretted her departure, and left her an immense fortune when he died; but Mary, cut off from her family, had never learned of it. Now, over a century later, the estate, valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars, was still held in trust, waiting for Mary's descendants to appear. The Bowden family was entitled to the entire estate if only they would apply for it — and, of course, pay the appropriate fees.

Over the course of a decade, similar stories were offered to members of other Lawrence families in New York and Ohio, each descended from a different John Lawrence. Each family was told that John Lawrence's wife was Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir (or Captain) Richard Towneley, sometimes said to be of Yorkshire, sometimes of Lancashire. In one variant of the story, Sir Richard had four daughters (Margaret, Cicely, Dorothy, and Mary). Two of them became nuns; one married but had no children; and only Mary, who ran off to America with John Lawrence, gave Sir Richard any heirs. Not only were Mary's descendants the sole heirs to Sir Richard's massive estate, but Mary's widowed and childless sister Dorothy also left her husband's money to Mary.

Each family was invited to subscribe to a fund for the prosecution of its rightful claim to the "Lawrence-Towneley Estate" being held in trust. Several Lawrence-Towneley Associations were set up. Subscribers were given impressive-looking certificates entitling them, for each \$20 subscribed, to a \$1000 share of the recovered estate. In one case, a Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, of Lewis County, New York, was presented with a document entitled "Genealogy and Decree of Chancery" in which he was proclaimed "the SOLE HEIR to the Lawrence-Townley Estate." Every one of these stories was, of course, fraudulent, and the certificates worthless. In most cases, the perpetrators simply vanished with the money. In this first round of Lawrence-Towneley scams, not a single claim to the fortune of Richard Towneley was ever filed. This is because there was no fortune to be recovered.

A member of the Bowden family, Benjamin Tynes Bowden (1803-1863), grandson of John Lawrence and the supposed Mary Towneley, proposed to go to London to investigate the story, but died before making the trip. Ironically, he could have saved himself the trouble if he had simply researched his own name. His middle name came from his grandmother, whose maiden name was not Towneley at all, but Tynes. John Lawrence is referred to as a son-in-law in the 1769 [will](#) of Benjamin's great-grandfather, Thomas Tynes, of Isle of Wight County, Virginia. There was no Towneley connection at all.

There really was a Richard Towneley, proprietor of a large estate in Burnley, in Lancashire. He died

sometime between December 1706, when he wrote the last codicil to [his will](#), and April 1707, when the will was proved in court. He did not have a daughter named Mary, although he did have daughters named Cicely and Margaret. More to the point, he had sons named Charles, Richard and Thomas. Charles, apparently the eldest son, received the bulk of the estate. There were no absent heirs, and no part of the Richard Towneley estate was ever placed in trust. And there was no one named Lawrence in the picture at all. In fact the John Lawrence who was the ancestor of the Bowden family was not even born until 1744, thirty-seven years after Richard Towneley's death.

By a curious coincidence, the Towneley estate — the real one — ran into genuine trouble at about the time the "Lawrence-Towneley" scam was running out of steam in America. Colonel John Towneley, last of Richard's male line of descent, died in Burnley in 1878, leaving no one to administer the extensive estate. The British Parliament devised the Towneley Estates Act in 1885, which divided the estate among seven heirs. However, by this time word of the break-up of the estate had reached America, where several of the "Lawrence-Towneley" associations revived and joined together to challenge the distribution. They engaged an English High Court solicitor named Howell Thomas, who made effusive promises to the Americans as to the likelihood of a successful outcome. In 1886 he filed an action in the High Court to recover possession of the estate. The court dismissed the action as frivolous, which indeed it was, since it was based upon the patently false stories and genealogies that the Americans had been sold during the first round of the scams.

But Howell Thomas knew a lucrative line of business when he saw one. Charging handsome fees all along the way, he appealed the decision, first to the Court of Appeal, and when that failed, to the House of Lords, which threw the case out in 1890. By this time the American clients were becoming belatedly aware that Howell Thomas was milking them for all they were worth. Thomas was hauled before the Central Criminal Court in 1894, charged with forgery, perjury, and fraud. By one account, he had taken \$80,000 from his clients, essentially for nothing.

Meanwhile, Frank Alden Hill, a descendant of one of the northern John Lawrences, conducted his own investigation into the matter. He obtained a copy of [Richard Towneley's will](#) and found no daughter named Mary mentioned. He researched the history of the Towneley estate, and discovered that none of it had ever been placed in trust for American heirs or anyone else. He published his findings in 1888, in a book called *The Lawrence, Chase, Towneley Estate: The Mystery Solved*.

None of this, however, was enough to quench the wishful thinking on the part of some Lawrence descendants. Around 1900, several of them in Texas took up the cause again. They included two brothers, B. T. and Nathaniel Howard, of Moore, Texas, who were the above-mentioned Benjamin Tynes Bowden's nephews, and Mrs. R. J. Parker, of San Antonio, granddaughter of Benjamin Tynes Bowden. Together they engaged a New York lawyer (who, one suspects, may have approached them in the first place) to pursue the claim. This lawyer had hooked himself a good fish, since the Howards and Parkers were well off. The situation was described in a letter written by Nathaniel Howard in 1911. The lawyer, not named, had persuaded them to pay for a trip to England, from which he had returned with bright promises: The family pedigree which Benjamin Tynes Bowden had been given was genuine, the estate was in the final stages of settlement, and just a few more pesky but somewhat costly steps remained to be taken. His Texan clients would soon be very wealthy indeed.

The affair, of course, dragged on, and then World War I intervened to provide an excuse for further delay. The victims of this scam were nonetheless upbeat. In 1916 an article appeared in the Sunday society section of the *San Antonio Express*, recounting in glowing terms the prospect of immense riches for the Howards and the Parkers; the title of the article was "War's End Means Fortune For These Texans." It had sumptuous photographs of Towneley Hall, listed the bogus genealogy of Mary Towneley, and displayed the Towneley coat of arms. The article stated that "Mrs. Parker's share of the

estates approximates \$850,000, and a fortune equivalent to about four times that figure will go to Mr. Howard, who represents one generation nearer the estate.”

They never received a penny, because the Towneley estate trust did not exist. But the desire to believe in such good fortune is very strong, as indicated in the *San Antonio Express* article. One of the Texas claimants, whom the article did not name, went so far as to invent old family stories about the estate, and to express faith that they would “in time to come bequeath the old remembrances to their children as our parents have done to us when we used to sit by the fireside and talk late into the night about this old estate and the bright prospects for the future.”

References:

Most of the material for this Webpage was provided by Joyce Hornback, a genealogist in Houston, Texas. Much of it comes from research by Bettie Schnee. Specific sources:

- Joyce G. Hornback, *The John Bowden Family of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee*, including the complete [will of Col. Richard Towneley](#).
- *San Antonio Express*, 15 October 1916, “War’s End Means Fortune For These Texans,” article by Horace N. Hill.
- *P.I.P.* (a London newspaper), article entitled “The Claim to the Towneley Estates”; the copy of the article is undated, but the text refers in the present tense to events in 1894.
- Burnley and District Historical Society, booklet on the history of Towneley Hall.
- [Will of Thomas Tynes](#) (dated 14 October 1769, proved 3 January 1771), Isle of Wight County (Virginia) Will Book 8, pages 69-70.

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Towneley Fraud Page revision 1.00, last updated on 6 April 2002.

Please send all comments to Mark James at tmarkjames@yahoo.com.

The following article appearing in the Utica, New York Morning Herald dated January 22, 1894, was sent to me by Susan Peters, Ontario, Canada June, 2002.

THE LAWRENCE/TOWNLEY ESTATE

“There appears to have been a Scandalous Fraud”

Before the queen's bench in London last week, a case was on trial in which the subscribers to the Lawrence/Townley estate fund in this vicinity- their heirs or assigns- will be interested. The question before the court was whether Solicitor Thomas should give a bill of costs for the expenditures of over \$75,000 entrusted to him by J. F. Jaques. It incidentally appeared that Jaques had gone to England in 1886 with \$80,000 in money and a claim of one Lawrence of Troy to the Townley estates and \$70,000,000 which had accumulated in the English treasury. It appears suit was actually entered for the recovery of the estate, but no effort apparently was made to get the 70 millions. Thomas, the solicitor, carried the case up to the House of Lords, and it was dually dismissed as frivolous and vexatious. Revelations in the case just tried led Justice Matthews to say:

“There appears to have been a scandalous fraud.” Justice Collins declared: “There is a question whether Jaques is entitled to the assistance of this court. That depends on whether Jaques was a party to a gross fraud admitted by Thomas to have been carried out by him. The master has investigated the matter and I do not disagree with his finding. I could not take upon myself to say that Jaques is fraudulent, but I am not certain that he is clear of fraud and I should be sorry by my judgment to place any obstruction in the way of persons who may have any right as against Jaques. It must not be thought that this court has absolved Jaques from all suspicion of fraudulently combining with Thomas.”

A dispatch to the New York Sun says: “Jaques is living in Denhigh place, Pimlico, a shabby-genteel quarter of London. He says he was colonel of the 730th Illinois volunteers during the war, and was afterward, an official in the post office in Washington. His principal hope on earth now is that the English solicitor Thomas shall be made to disgorge some of the money which Jaques has paid him. Here is the colonel's statement:

"I was asked to go into the case by Dr. Webb of Utica, New York, a friend of mine. He collected the pedigree proofs of marriage and everything to establish a claim to the Townley estates, obtained the opinion of eminent counsel- Blake, Curran and Boyd of Toronto, and others- and collected from many persons money with which to carry on litigation. Our documents show that John Lawrence married Mary Townley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley, in 1695. In 1807 there was a failure of male issue in the Townley family, and the succession we claim should have gone to Mary Townley's descendants. (Dow Haiser) Lawrence, her great, great grandson, the present claimant, is a poor _____ in Troy. The Townley estate is in the possession of Lord Torreys, now Earl of Abingdon, who married a Townley nominally in possession. The estate is of enormous value. It includes a large part of the manufacturing town of Burnley and several coal mines. The statute of limitations will put our case out of court unless we can prove there was fraud in obtaining the property which is what we propose to do. When I came to England six years ago, we employed Howell Thomas, an English Solicitor. He took all the papers, retained counsel, etc. The case was dismissed by the House of Lords two years ago and we failed to obtain permission to begin another suit but the language of the court led us to believe we might succeed another time. But in the meantime Thomas has obtained \$75,000 from us and refused an accounting. This is what we are trying to obtain. He has seven addresses within six months and we do not know where he is now. He has many important papers. Thomas informed me that the sum of \$70,000,000 accumulated income of the estate was in the treasury. I have not been able to ascertain that yet. To all this it may be added that the....

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE ISSUE

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, BOOKS AND LETTERS RELATED TO THE 19TH CENTURY ATTEMPT OF THE LAWRENCE FAMILY TO ESTABLISH A DIRECT LINE DESCENT FROM SIR ROBERT LAWRENCE OF ASHTON HALL

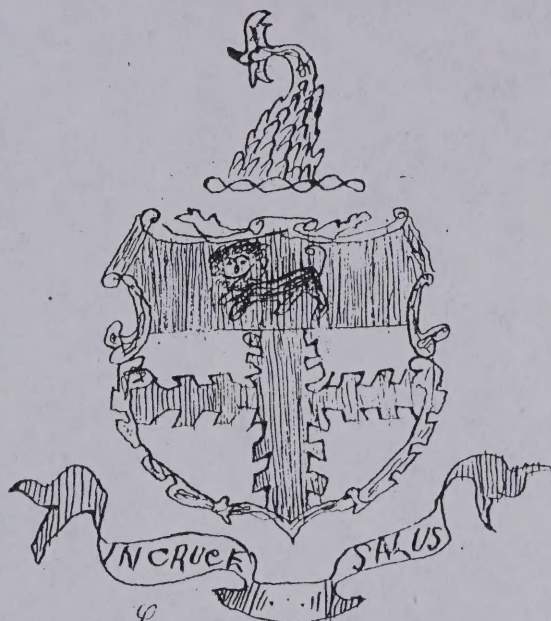
ORGANIZED AND ASSEMBLED BY ROBERT L. JACKSON
2002 - 2003

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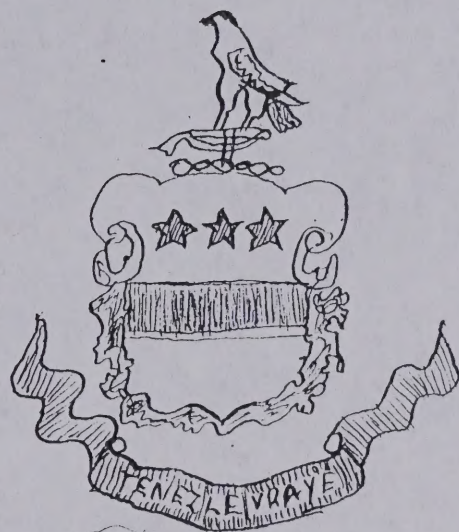
- i. Preface
- ii. Lawrence and Townley coat of arms
- iii. County and Town map of England

- 1. Constitution of the Townley-Lawrence Association organized by Porter Jewett Lawrence
- 2. a. Copy of the Opinion in reference to the Lawrence-Townley Estate offered by the law firm of Blake, Kerr and Boyd, Toronto Canada, 1876
b. Copy of the Opinion written by H. Collis, Solicitor, High Court Chancery, Ireland
- 3. Trust deed, The Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association, William Northcote Geare, President
- 4. Notes on the geography of Ashton in England
(A detailed description of Ashton Hall with current pictures can be found in the Ted Noble Data Book)
- 5. a. Letter from Lanphere and Usher Company to Porter J. Lawrence regarding heirship and association formation June 10, 1881
b. Letter: to Porter Lawrence from Lanphere and Usher, Inc. March 4, 1882
c. Letter: to Porter Lawrence from James Usher regarding publication of the book on the Lawrence-Townley Estate December 18, 1882
d. Advertisement regarding the Lawrence-Townley case
e. Letter: Porter Lawrence to James Usher regarding Association fees, August 18, 1882
f. Letter: Response of James Usher to Porter Lawrence
g. Advertisement: Usher's company discovered. Unclaimed money and property, a solicitation letter, undated.
h. Letter: to Porter Lawrence, Esq., from James Usher and Lanphere Agency, March 4, 1882
- 6. a. Note: To Porter Lawrence from Mrs. S. E. Walton regarding the Association meeting in Detroit, Michigan
b. Letter: Simeon Lawrence to Porter Lawrence regarding ancestry, January 4, 1882. Made in response to a query from Porter Lawrence delivered December 30, 1881
c. Newspaper articles: Detroit Free Press and St. Louis Dispatch. Year around 1882.
- 7. a. Letter: Perhaps from William Northcote Geare to a Mr. Exiter, probably in England. August 26, 1882
- 8. a. Letter: O. W. Lawrence to Porter Lawrence regarding the

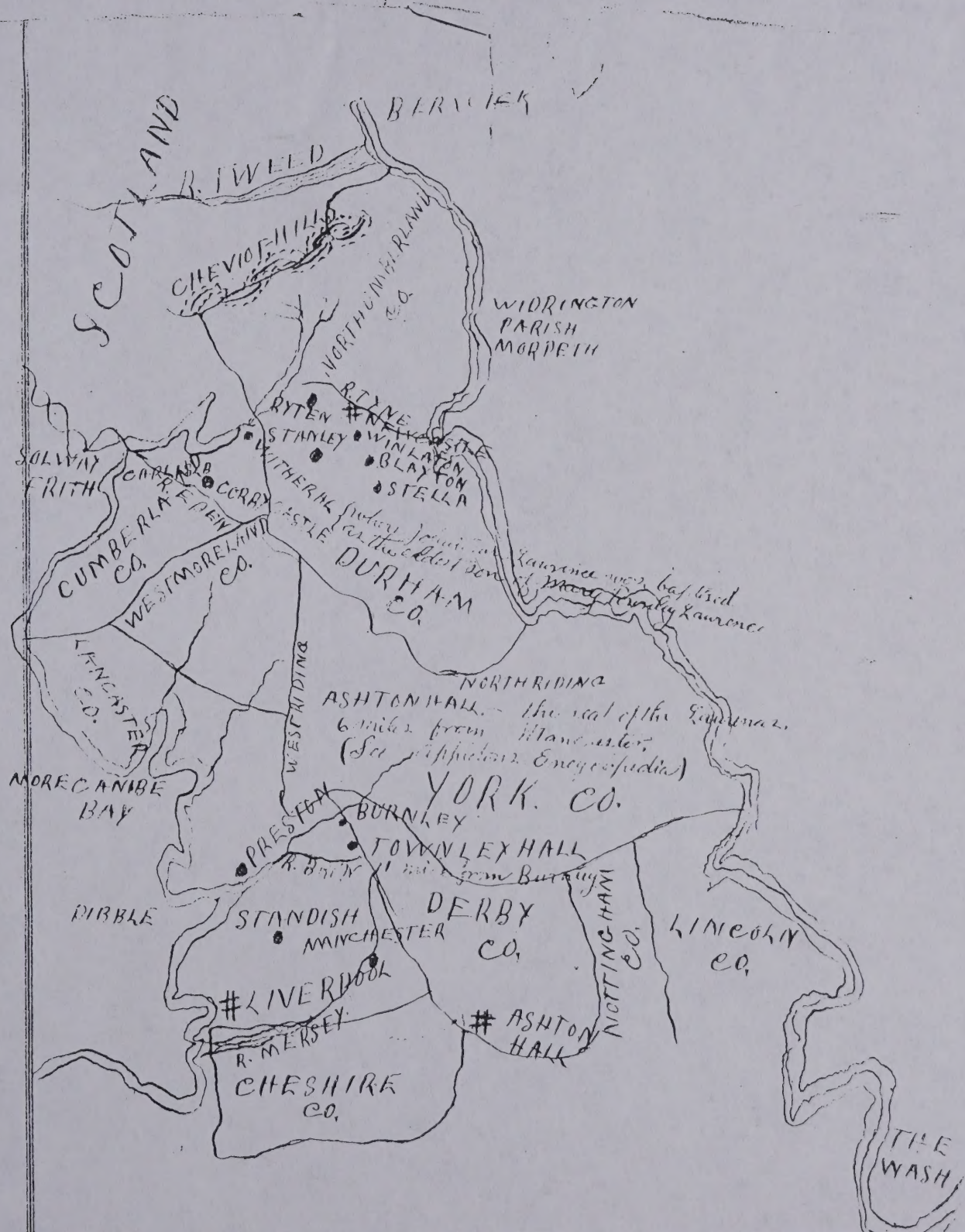
- ancestry from records in Norwich, sent from Owasso, Michigan September 25th, 1895.
- b. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from D. E. Harras, Fort Gratoit, (Port Huron, Michigan) disputing Geare's claims. September 22, 1885.
9. a. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from Mrs. Sarah Fargo; having read about the Estate, sent a partial genealogy.
- b. Letter: To Mr. Van Wie from J. M. Chase, Olathe, Kansas, regarding the Lawrence-Townley claim and the English court system.
10. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from Almon Lawrence regarding the genealogical listings. (Some support for continuing research)
12. Letter: To Porter Lawrence from Will Parsons (Ohio) regarding heirship to the Lawrence-Townley Estate, November 8, 1885. Included in the letter is a genealogy which has not been reproduced at this time.
13. Letter: From Mr. George W. Langdon, Baraboo, Wisconsin to Porter Lawrence on genealogical issues. Letter includes information on the funeral of John Lawrence and his wife.
14. a. Letter: To Porter J. Lawrence from Mrs. A. W. Day (Anna), Monkton Ridge, Vermont, January 1886, regarding genealogy.
- b. Letter: To Porter J. Lawrence from Mrs. A. W. Day (Anna) Monkton Ridge, Vermont, February 8, 1886.
15. a. Letter: To Porter J. Lawrence from William Northcote Geare, President of the Consolidated Lawrence-Chase-Townley Association, Toronto, Canada, September 8, 1886
16. a. Article: Utica Morning Herald, January 22, 1894 sent to Robert L. Jackson by Susan Peters in June 2002. Writer unknown, partial content.
- b. Article: The Freeman's Journal, Dublin. Monday, February 1, 1886. Copied by Porter Lawrence, 1886.
17. a. Descendants of John Lawrence, generation 2 from the Family Treemaker, Summer, 2002.
<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/l/a/w.../GENE2-0002.html?welcome=102414564>
- b. Addendum to the second generation of American Lawrences, rewritten for personal use by R. Jackson.
18. Letter: A lengthy epistle from a Baltimore, Maryland Lawrence family member (not identified in the letter) to Mr. John Lawrence of Bennington, Vermont and probably forwarded to Porter J. Lawrence, October 3, 1886
19. Book, History- History of the Lawrence-Townley and Chase-Townley Estates in England, James Usher, New York, 1883
20. Abstracts: Book of Frank Alden Hill, The Mystery Solved, Published by Rand, Avery of Boston, 1888

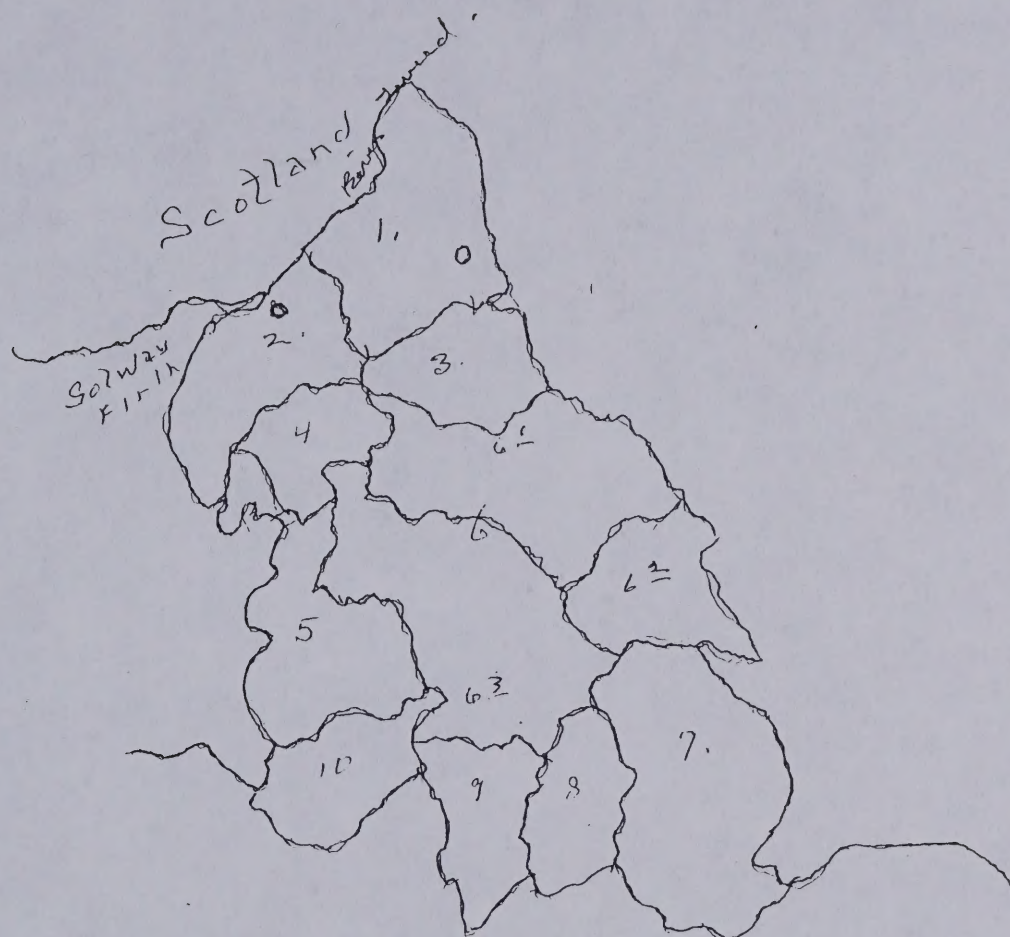


Lawrence.



Tounley;





1. Northumberland.
2. Cumberland
3. Durham
4. Westmorland
5. Lancashire
6. York.
- 6¹ North Riding
- 6² East Riding
- 6³ West Riding
7. Lincoln
8. Nottingham
9. Derby
10. Cheshire

THE TOWNLEY-LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION

Whereas the Townley and Lawrence families in America are entitled to a large amount of real and personal property which is now held in trust by the British government, subject to the demand of the rightful heirs; and

Whereas, we the next of kin and heirs to this property are in America. Now in order to prosecute the investigation and procure all and every information as will be required in order to have a complete and legal claim to our ancestral estate and have it applied to its rightful channel of descent;

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to form ourselves into an Association under the following Constitution:

ARTICLE 1

This society shall be called the Townley-Lawrence Association.

ARTICLE 2

Messrs. Lamphere and Usher of New York City, and Messrs. Poole, Hughes and Poole of London, England are hereby appointed agents for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting the case in England and are required from time to time to make a report to the members of this Association of their progress.

ARTICLE III

The aforesaid Messrs. Lamphere and Usher and Messrs. Poole, Hughes and Poole are to be allowed five hundred dollars for the purpose of making an investigation of the case in England, and for procuring full particulars of the situation, nature and value of the said property, and whatever evidence is necessary to prove out rights in the courts, and in addition thereto we agree to pay to the said Messrs. Lamphere and Usher and Messrs. Poole, Hughes and Poole ten (10) percent of the value of all real, personal and mixed property which they shall recover for our use and benefit.

ARTICLE IV.

All persons upon signing these articles of Association and agreement shall become members of the Association and shall pay the sum of ten (10)

dollars as a membership fee, to be devoted to the expenses of the suit as before stated.

ARTICLE V.

No member of this Association shall be liable to pay more than ten dollars as expenses or compensation or otherwise to any person or persons whatever.

ARTICLE VI.

The interest of any member of this Association shall be transferable according to law and in case of the death of any member his or her interest shall descend to his or her heirs.

ARTICLE VII.

All members of this Association agree to render whatever aid and assistance that may be in their power and to furnish all information and documents in their possession connected with the said estate, and to mutually co-operate in the prosecution of the claim.

ARTICLE VIII.

In case of success, should any member of the Association fail to make their claim valid his or her fee will be refunded and the branch of the family which gains the estate and money is to bear all the expenses and refund to those who contribute and get nothing and in addition thereto, each member of this Association shall be entitled to the sum of one hundred dollars out of the money recovered. Said bonus shall be made payable on the recovery of the property by such members by such members of this Association as shall recover the property. And out of the first proceeds after payment of the costs of suits and not otherwise and shall be a lien on said estate to be paid and discharged or money retained and therefore, before any division or distribution is made to the heirs. (It is expressly understood that I am not to be liable in any way for any costs, fees or expenses either alone or jointly) In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 19th day of September, 1881.

Porter J. Lawrence

We undersigned witness this to be a true copy of the original constitution sent to Lamphere and Usher, New York City.

Signed: John A. Jackson

Camilla C. Jackson

The Townley - Lawrence Association

Whereas, The Townley & Lawrence families in America are entitled to a large amount of real and personal property which is now held in trust by the British Government, subject to the demand of the rightful heirs; and

Whereas, We the next of kin & heirs to this property are in America. Now in order to prosecute the investigation, & procure all & every information as will be required in order to have a complete & legal chain of facts & evidence whereby to lay claim to our ancestral estate, and have it applied to its rightful channel of descent;

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to form ourselves into an Association, under the following

"Constitution."

Article 1

This society shall be called the
Townley - Lawrence Association

Article 2

Messrs. Lambphere & Asher, of New York City, and Messrs. Poole, Hughes & Poole, of London, England, are hereby appointed agents for the purpose of investigating and prosecuting the case in England, and are required from time to time to make a report to the members of this Association of their progress.

Article III

The aforesaid Messrs. Lambphere & Asher and Messrs. Poole, Hughes & Poole are ~~to~~ to be allowed five hundred dollars for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the case in England, and for procuring full particulars of the situation, nature and value of said property, and whatever evidence is

necessary to prove our rights in the Courts; and in addition thereto we agree to pay to the said Messrs.

Lansphere & Fisher and Messrs Poole & Hughes and Poole ten (10) per cent. of the value of all real, personal and mixed property which they shall recover for our use and benefit.

Article IV

All persons upon signing these articles of association and agreement shall become members of the Association, and shall pay the sum of ten (\$10) dollars as a membership fee, to be devoted to the expenses of the suit, as before stated.

Article V

No member of this Association shall be liable to pay more than ten dollars as expenses or compensation or otherwise to any person or persons whatever.

Article VI

The interest of any member of this Association shall be transferable according to law, and in case of the death of any member his or her interest shall descend to his or her heirs.

Article VII

All members of this Association agree to render whatever aid & assistance that may be in their power, and to furnish all information & documents in their possession connected with the said estate, and to mutually co-operate in the prosecution of the claim.

Article VIII

In case of success, should any member of the Association fail to make their claim valid, his or her fee will be refunded & the branch of the family which gains the estate & money is to bear all the expenses, & refund to those who contribute

and get nothing, and in addition
there to each member of this Association
shall be entitled to the sum of one
hundred dollars out of the money
recovered; said bonus shall be made
payable on the recovery of the property
of such members of this Association as
shall recover the property, & out of the first
proceeds after payment of the costs of suit,
and not otherwise, & shall be a lien on said
estate to be paid & discharged, or money
retained therefor before any division or
distribution is made to the heirs. (It is
expressly understood that I am not to be
liable in any way, for any costs, fees, or expenses
either alone or jointly).

In testimony whereof, we have here-
unto set our hands & seals, this the
19th day of Sept. 1881.

Partes J. Lawrence

We undersigned witness this to be
a true copy of original Constitution
sent to Sampson & Fisher, New York City
over

10. This must be a mistake - John L. & Mary
sons who survived him, one of them
age, so that as they both survived him - John L. (son) must have died
between 1695 & 1697 -

Copy of opinion in reference to Lawrence Towneley Estate

- We have considered the case submitted to us with the accompanying table of
pedigree and the certificates of marriages and deaths shown to us from
which it would appear amongst other material matters -
- 1 That Lebius Lawrence died in 1818 leaving several children heirs
surviving, and amongst others, his eldest son John A. Lawrence, and
his second son Wm. T. Lawrence.
 - 2 That his eldest son John A. Lawrence died in 1857, leaving one
son Norman J. Lawrence him surviving.
 - 3 That Norman J. Lawrence died in 1861 without issue him surviving.
 - 4 That William T. Lawrence the second son of Lebius Lawrence above
named thereupon became, and is the heir at law of the said
Lebius Lawrence.
 - 5 That Lebius Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of
Jonathan Lawrence who was born in 1739 and died in 1816.
 - 6 That Jonathan Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law
of Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) who died in 1769.
 - 7 That Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) was the second son
of John Lawrence and Mary Towneley who died in 1673
leaving two sons him surviving - John Lawrence his eldest
son who died an infant only two years of age, and therefore
without issue; and the above named Jonathan Lawrence
(the elder).
 - 8 That Mary Towneley who was married to John Lawrence
in 1693 was the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Towneley
and the Hon^{ble} Mary Widdington who died leaving
one son John Towneley whose issue has failed, and two
daughters the above named Mary Towneley and one
Dorothy Towneley who was married to Henry Stoward
(afterwards Lord Effingham and died without issue).
 - 9 It would therefore appear that William T. Lawrence
is the heir at law of Lebius Lawrence, who was the
heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) who was
the heir at law of John Lawrence and Mary Towneley,
and that Mary Towneley was the heiress at law of
Sir Richard Towneley and the Hon^{ble} Mary Widdington.
 - 10 From the certificates shown to us it would appear
that the foregoing matters are all susceptible of easy
proof.
 - 11 In our opinion William Towneley Lawrence is entitled
to recover the lands belonging to those of his ancestors
above named, through whom he claims as heir
at law, unless it can be shown that such right has
been interfered with by will or settlement not appearing
in the case - but the nature of the estates not being
before us, we have deemed it proper to make mention
of this qualification.

Dated Toronto 16th May 1876

Blake Kerr & Boyd

Copy of Opinion in Reference to Lawrence/Townley Estate

We have considered the case submitted to us with the accompanying table of pedigree and the certificates of marriages and deaths shown to us from which it would appear amongst other material matters that Lebius Lawrence died in 1818 leaving several children heirs surviving, and amongst others, his eldest son John A. Lawrence, and his second son, William T. Lawrence.

That his eldest son, John A. Lawrence died in 1857, leaving one son, Norman J. Lawrence him surviving.

That Norman J. Lawrence died in 1861 without issue him surviving

That William T. Lawrence the second son of Lebius Lawrence above named thereupon became and is the heir at law of the said Lebius Lawrence

That Lebius Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence who was born in 1739 and died in 1816

That Jonathan Lawrence was the eldest son and heir at law of Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) who died in 1769.

That Jonathan Lawrence (the elder) was the second son of John Lawrence and Mary Townley who died in 1673 leaving two sons him surviving-John Lawrence his eldest son who died an infant only two years of age, and therefore without issue, and the above named Jonathan Lawrence (the elder). *

That Mary Townley who was married to John Lawrence in 1693 was the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Townley and the Honorable Mary Widdrington who died leaving one son John Townley whose issue has failed, and two daughters- the above named Mary Townley and one Dorothy Townley who was married to Henry Howard (afterwards) Lord Effingham and died without issue.

It would therefore appear that William T. Lawrence is the heir at law of Lebius Lawrence, who was the heir at law of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, and that Mary Townley was the heiress at law of Sir Richard Townley and the Honorable Mary Widdrington.

From the certificates shown to us it would appear that the foregoing matters are all susceptible of easy proof.

In our opinion, William Townley Lawrence is entitled to recover the lands belonging to those of his ancestors above named, through whom he claims as heir at law, unless it can be shown that such right has been interfered with by will or settlement not appearing in the case- but the nature of the estates not being before us, we have deemed it proper to make mention of this qualification.

Dated Toronto 16th May 1876

Blake Kerr & Boyd

*(You will observe the note on the top of this opinion has been in part, mutilated but perhaps can be completed by appropriate interpolation to read as follow:

NOTE: This must be a mistake- John Lawrence and Mary Townley had 2 sons who survived him, one of them, John Lawrence died at two years of age, so that as they both survived him, John Lawrence must have died between 1695 & 1697)

It is unclear who wrote this note.

Copy of Opinion

In giving my opinion on the claim of William Towneley Lawrence to the Lawrence Towneley Estates in England - I feel it unnecessary to extend such opinion to any length by entering into the particulars respecting the descent of claimant, Certificates of Marriage, Births, and other documents, as such are set forth in the bill prepared by me, but deem it sufficient to say that after having been engaged for many months upon the Case. Examining records and evidence along with family traditions (the latter being admissible evidence in such cases). I have now no hesitation in giving my opinion that William Towneley Lawrence is the heir at law to the said Estates, and moreover that the existing proofs are of such a nature that as to lead me to believe that there can be comparatively no difficulty and little delay in proving the claim, and obtaining the award of the Court of Chancery in favor of the claimant - I might also say that I am fortified in my belief by the opinion of Messrs Blake, Kerr & Boyd together with the evidence now in possession and that the case scarcely admits of a doubt.

Signed Wm H & Collis Kent-
Solicitor

Toronto
26th May - 1876

High Court Chancery Ireland

William Northcote Geare, President

Silas Vernon, Vice-Pres

Sturgeon Stewart, Secretary

Re
Lawrence-Towneley Estates.

Trust Deed

TO

The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Assoc'n.

BLAKE, LASH, CASSELLS & HOLMAN.

This Indenture, made the

day of _____, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty- _____ BETWEEN the several persons whose hands and seals are hereto set and who severally claim to be entitled to an interest or share in what is generally known as the Lawrence-Towneley Estates, more minutely described as the Widdrington Estate, in Widdrington Parish, Northumberland County; the Tempest Estates, in Durham County, including the Stella, Stanley and Bowland Estates; the Lord Effingham Howard Estate, in County of Durham, known as Corby Castle; the Standish Estate, in the County of York, and the Towneley Estates proper, in the County of Lancashire, known in England and comprehended under the general designation of "The Towneley Estates," hereinafter called the Claimants, of the First Part, and William Northcote Geare, Esquire, Professor S. Vernoy and Sturgeon Stewart, Esquire, all of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario and Dominion of Canada, hereinafter called the Executive, who, together with a Board of Trustees and a Board of Directors, as from time to time duly appointed, are collectively designated "The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association," of the Second Part: WHEREAS, the Claimants severally claim to be entitled to an interest or share in what is known as the Lawrence-Towneley Estates, as above described, and are desirous of having their claims presented and prosecuted with vigor; And whereas, a large number of persons who severally claim interests or shares in said estates, formed themselves into an association called "The Consolidated Lawrence-Towneley Association," hereinafter referred to as "The Association," the Head Office of which is at present at No. 21 Yonge Street Arcade, Toronto, the object of such Association being declared to be: "To faithfully, honourably, and with all diligence, prosecute the claims of the "Lawrence-Towneley heirs to the estates now awaiting them." AND WHEREAS, in or about the month of August, A.D. 1885, an Act of the Parliament of Great Britain and Ireland was passed intituled—"An Act for carrying into effect the division of certain "hereditaments known as the Towneley estate, in the Counties of Lancaster and York, the estate in the Forest of Bowland in "the same counties, and the Stella and Stanley estates, in the County of Durham, and for other purposes." AND WHEREAS, in order that the Claimants' claims may be duly presented and prosecuted with less expense than would be possible were they to be presented and prosecuted individually, and in order that the necessary funds may be raised for the purpose, the Claimants have agreed to transfer their respective claims: NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, that each of the Claimants, in consideration of the signatures by the others to these presents, and in further consideration of the various stipulations herein contained, and of one dollar in cash by them in hand well and truly paid, doth hereby grant, assign, transfer and set over unto the said Association, its administrators and successors, according to the nature thereof, all his or her estate, right, title, interest, claim, share and demand of whatever kind, in, to and out of the estates, lands, tenements, hereditaments, leaseholds, mines, minerals, royalties, monies, chattels, choses in action, and properties of all and every kind, whether real, personal or mixed, which belong to or form part of, or go to make up that which is known or called the "Lawrence-Towneley Estates," including among all others (if any) the estates mentioned or referred to in said Act of the Parliament of Great Britain: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said Association, their heirs, executors, administrators and successors according to the nature thereof Upon Trust to get in, collect, receive and convert into money, the estates, rights, titles, interests, claims, shares and demands hereby granted, assigned, transferred and set over, and to do all acts and things, and sign, seal, execute and deliver all such writings, deeds, discharges and other documents, whatsoever, that may be expedient or necessary in that behalf, and to hold, apply and distribute the monies and proceeds according to the terms hereof. PROVIDED ALWAYS, that the Executive shall in all matters act under the lawful directions and control of the said Association. The said Association is hereby authorized and empowered to raise such sums of money from time to time upon the security of the trust estate, and the proceeds thereof, as the said Association may think necessary for the purposes of the trust and the work of the Association, and for that purpose the Executive, at the request of the Association, are to make and issue such bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements, as may be thought advisable at such rates of interest, and with such bonuses and additions as may be thought expedient, the power hereby given to extend to and include the raising of money by the sale or pledge of such bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements at such rates of discount and upon such terms as may be thought fit. ALL moneys raised under the power hereby given are to be applied for the purposes of the trust and for the work of the said Association, in accordance with the directions of the said Association, but the Executive shall not be bound to take any action involving the expenditure of money unless the necessary money therefor is in their hands. EACH of the Claimants hereby authorizes and empowers the Executive to use his or her name, in all acts, things, writings, deeds, discharges, and other documents whatsoever, and to act for him or her in all matters or things relating to or connected with the trust estate, and for that purpose each of the Claimants hereby appoints the Executive Committee his or her attorneys irrevocable, with full power to appoint a substitute or substitutes from time to time for all or any of the purposes under the direction of the said Association. ALL monies and securities for money received by the Executive, as the proceeds of the trust estate, are to be applied and disposed of as follows: First: In the payment and getting in of all bonds, debentures, mortgages, pledges, contracts and agreements, made and issued by the Executive for the purpose of raising money upon the security of the trust estate as above provided for; Second: In payment of all liabilities, expenses, costs, charges and disbursements, incurred or made in connection with the trust; Third: In payment to the said Executive of a commission of 15 per cent. on the receipts for the time, trouble and care in these matters; Fourth: The balance to be distributed among such of the Claimants, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, as may, by the judgment or order of the proper Court or tribunal in that behalf, be declared entitled to shares or interests in the said estates, and in such proportions as may be declared or provided by such judgment or order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties have hereto set their hands and seals.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED,

IN THE PRESENCE OF

Ashton in Metherfield a small
Township in the middle of S. Lanca-
shire, Eng. Pop 7463. chiefly
engaged in collieries, and in cotton
manufacture.

Ashton under Lyne, a town in
the S. E. of Lancashire, Eng.
Pop 37,389. To the W. of the town is
a large mass of shewing Coq. con-
taining fir trees full of turpen-
tine. Sand black oak. with a
loamy bottom at the depth of 10 feet.

City steps or Grouse steps the word
is though obsolete in English
has retained its place in the Scottish
dialect. and in architecture Co. sign-
ify the succession of steps with
which the gables of old houses are
everywhere ornamented in Scotland
The fashion like most of the other
peculiarities of Scottish architecture
was no doubt borrowed as was the
Term. from France.

James Shirley an early dramatic
writer, and founder of a class-
ical academy at White Friars
London. born 1594 died 1666.
from exposure during the great
fire of London 1666. at the
time of the Plague.

Wm Shirley Royal Gov. of Mass.
1741-45 and 1753-59. was
commander in chief of the colonial
forces during the French and
Indian war, and was after-
wards Gov. of Ala. born in
England 1693, died in
Dorset Mass 1771.

Geographical Note on Ashton, England and Mr. James Shirley

(Found in the records of Porter J. Lawrence, perhaps hand scribbled by him while examining an encyclopoedia description of Ashton)

Decoded:

Ashton in (Bunkerfield) a small township in the middle of South Lancashire, England. Population 7,463, chiefly engaged in colliries (coal mines) and in cotton manufacture.

Ashton under Lyne (is) a town in the Southeast of Lancashire, England. Population 37,309. To the west of the town is a large mass or shaking bog, containing fir trees full of turpentine and black oak, with a loamy bottom at the depth of 10 feet.

Corby steps or Crownsteps, the word _____ though obsolete in English has retained its place in the Scottish dialect and in architecture as a sign meaning the succession of steps with which the gables of old houses are everywhere ornamented in Scotland. The fashion like most of the other peculiarities of Scottish architecture was no doubt borrowed as was the term from France.

(NOTE: the Term Corby steps can still be found in the Newworld Dictionary of the American language, Second College Edition., 1986.) RLJ

(On the reverse of this note is written the following note regarding a James Shirley. Why this note is included is yet a mystery but perhaps relates to some issue regarding the Lawrence-Townley Estate. RLJ)

James Shirley, an early dramatic writer and founder of a classical academy at White Friar, London. (He was) born in 1594 and died in 1666, at the time of the Plague.

William Shirley, Royal Governor of Massachusetts, 1741 - 45 and 1753-59 was commander-in-chief of the colonial forces during the French and Indian war, and was afterwards, Governor of Alabama, born in England, 1693, and died in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1771.

Persons writing to make inquiries should
enclose stamp for postage.

Circulars containing full particulars
furnished on application.

LANPHERE & USHER,

AGENCY FOR THE

Prosecution and Recovery of Foreign and American Claims,

No. 9 Murray Street, New York City.

E. O. LANPHERE,
JAMES USHER.

P. J. Lawrence Esq. June 10th 1881

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 7th duly recd: and
in reply will say we have just completed
negotiation with the son and administrator
of the late Hon D. B. Carter of Albany, N.Y.,
resulting in the transfer of all his fathers
documents researches in the Towner and
Lawrence Estate to us.

The case is to be immediately investi-
gated, vigorously prosecuted and if ever
unsettled, Counsel being now in England
awaiting the arrival of evidence now in pre-
paration here and who is fully empowered
to obtain all and every information as will
be required to lay claim to your ancestral
Estate and have it applied to its rightful
channel of descent.

For this purpose an association of the Lirs
is now forming Lirs and rapidly filling

up. It is limited to one hundred members at five dollars each and no further amount will be asked.

In case of success, should any member fail to make their claim valid his or her fee will be refunded but all members will have the full benefit of Mr. Carver's researches, which embraces about all the families in the country.

Hoping you will join our association without delay, we remain

Yours
Laurel + Helen

Mr. T. J. Lawrence
Jr. Sec.

9 Murray St. N.Y.
18 Decemr. 82

I propose to print only a limited number of copies for the use of those interested, so please inform me as to the exact number of copies you wish.

I should also be pleased to have you ascertain if other interested persons wish copies, as the book can be obtained by subscription only.

The book's you may choose to order can be sent C. O. D. as soon as published or the amount can now be forwarded.

The book will be quite large as I have about 300 pages of manuscript all told.

I would be pleased to have you send me a list of the names of those you know to be interested in this matter.

Yours Truly
James McKim

TO BE OBTAINED ONLY BY SUBSCRIPTION.

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

—OF THE—

TOWNLEY & LAWRENCE CASE, OF ENGLAND.

I am about to publish in book form the History of the above case, which I have for a considerable length of time past been engaged in investigating, for certain parties interested therein, having obtained possession of all the documents relating to this case, collected by the late HON. D. B. CARVER, and others, with which aid I have after years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances thoroughly examined the case, with the assistance of some of the most eminent Barristers, and Solicitors in London, and now I enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that I have been unprecedentedly successful in procuring an authentic statement from the *Court Officials at London, England*, and accomplished what never has been done before in this case, by any effort of this kind, single or combined; and now I have no hesitation whatever in saying that I have a complete and reliable report of this case, collected from the records of the *High Court of Chancery, in England*, and from other reliable sources.

The report is quite lengthy, and for fullness of matter, minuteness of details, and accurate accounts, I believe no book of this character will exceed it.

I therefore propose to have it printed; persons who have any desire to inform themselves thoroughly, and to know everything of a reliable nature that can be gathered about this case, can do so, by forwarding to me the sum of \$2 and they will receive a copy of the book, as soon as the same is issued, which will be very shortly, only a limited number will be printed; for the use of those interested in the case, and the book will *only* be sold to subscribers,

Address

JAMES USHER,
9 MURRAY STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

6 Murray Street,
NEW YORK CITY.

JAMES USHER,

Address

The Editor respectfully appeals to the members of the Family to manifest their approval of this undertaking by giving it the necessary support.

Address

I have also procured portraits and views of the famous Townley Hall of Lancashire; also of Corley Castle of Cumberland, showing a very magnificent edifice picturesquely situated at the head of a large lake, looking over a vast extent of country.

Every enterprise: will you therefore kindly oblige me with the names and addresses of those you know to be connected with the family, and who are likely to become interested in this work; and the number of copies you desire.

This volume will be a treasury of interesting and memorable facts collected from many sources, with much trouble and at no inconsiderable cost.

I therefore propose to have it published. Persons who have any desire to inform themselves thoroughly, and to know everything of a reliable nature that can be gathered about this case and also of the history of the family, can do so by forwarding to me the sum of \$2. and they will receive a copy of the book as soon as the same is issued, which will be very shortly, or the book can be sent C. O. D. *Only a limited number of copies will be printed* for the use of those connected with the family and interested in the case, and the book will only be sold to subscribers.

The report is very lengthy, and for fullness of matter, minuteness of details, and accurate accounts, I believe no book of this character will exceed it.

The book, in addition to much other valuable Historical and Genealogical matter, contains also a genealogy of the LAWRENCE FAMILY.

In its preparation, tribute has been laid upon all sources of information. Town, County and State records have been consulted; State, Genealogical, and other Libraries have added to my knowledge. Family and Town histories have yielded up their treasures, family bibles, and the memory of the aged have aided in this work.

This volume will be a treasury of interesting and memorable facts collected from many sources, with much trouble and at no inconsiderable cost.

I therefore propose to have it published. Persons who have any desire to inform themselves thoroughly, and to know everything of a reliable nature that can be gathered about this case, can do so, by forwarding to me the sum of \$2 and they will receive a copy of the book, as soon as the same is issued, which will be very shortly, only a limited number will be printed; for the use of those interested in the case, and the book will *only* be sold to subscribers,

I am publishing in book form the History of the above families and case, which I have for a considerable length of time past been engaged in investigating for certain parties interested therein; having obtained possession of all the documents relating to this case collected by the late HON. D. B. CARVER, and others who devoted many years of their lives to unearthing records and traditions relating to the families interested in, and connected with, the above-mentioned Estate, with which aid I have after years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances thoroughly examined the case, with the assistance of some of the most eminent Barristers, and Solicitors, in London, and now I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have been unprecedentedly successful in procuring an authentic statement from the *Court Officials at London, England*, and accomplished what never has been done before in this case, by any effort of this kind, single, or combined; and I have no hesitation whatever, in saying that I have a complete and reliable report of this case collected from the records of the *High Court of Chancery, in England*, and from other reliable sources.

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY
OF THE
TOWNLEY & LAWRENCE CASE,
OF ENGLAND.

IN PRESS, AND NEARLY READY.

Winnebago, August 18th, 1882

Mr. Usher, Dear Sir

I received your correspondence and also your letters and in reply would say according to the by-laws of the association we was not to pay any more than the \$500 and that was to be used for the purpose of commencing suit. That was paid in almost a year ago and nothing has been done as yet, in your letter I have before me dated September 5th, 1881, you said that was positively all the money that would be required of the heirs. You agreed to collect it for ten per cent. If the amount is what you claim it to be, I think that the ten per cent would be worth your while to go ahead and collect it on your own account if I see it all right. If we furnish you money to go to London and you should succeed, you are just ahead so much and we are out so much. I don't understand it. I wish you would explain it to me. I know there is a fortune there for us for it has been handed down for generations and that is why I have been so anxious to see the end of it. You say there is a hundred heirs, who are they and where are they. I cannot find anybody but myself. I have been through York State this summer and failed to find a man or a woman that has signed the constitution. I begin to think there is no such an association, Lawrence and Townley Association. Excuse me for thinking so, for you are a stranger to me and I to you. And one reason for my thinking so is the association has no treasurer, clerk nor president and there has been no meeting of the heirs to my knowledge, and now for me to go ahead, I must know that it is all right and then clear the----(illegible). Business is business and right is right, that is my motto. Please answer. I remain yours

P. J. Lawrence
Winnebago, Illinois
Winnebago County

Winnipeg August 16th 1881

Mr. Wm. H. Fears Esq

I received your letter & also
your letter & in reply would
say according to the Bylaws of
the association we was not to
pay any more than the share of
that was to be repaid for the
purpose of Commencing suit
that was ^{has been} forgo in almost
a year ago & nothing done
as yet in your letter of Jan.
Before me dated Sept 1st 1881
I ^{now say} that it was positively all the

money that would be required
of the heirs you agree to collect it
for ten per cent, if the amount
is what you claim it is to be
I think that the ten per cent

would be worth your while
to go a heap & collect it on your
own account - if I see it aweight
if we pick up your money to go to
(London) & you should sweep &
got the factures you are just
a heap to munt & we are out too
Munt & ~~with~~ don't understand
I wish you would explain it to
me I know that is a facture that
has us for it has been hence
down for generations & that is
why I have been so anxious
to see the end ^{of it} & you say that is a
hence heirs who are they & whom
are they I cannot find any body
but myself I have been through
York State this summer & fail
to find a man or woman that
has signified the contribution of
begin to think that no such an
association. I & I association
Expense we pay. thinking so far

you are a stranger to me & to
you & are reason for my thinking
So is the association has no been
then ever respect & there has
no meeting of the heirs to my
knowledge & show for me to go a
heap I must know that it is
all right & than clear the
facture. Hence is. Hence &
weight is weight - that is my
Malle clear means I remain
yours &c

P. J. Lawrence

Minalgo Mineralogy Co. Ltd

P. J. Lawrence Esq.

Dear Sir:

Your kind favor came to hand and in reply would say that I wish it to be clearly understood that I have no desire to influence any party or parties to subscribe to this fund against their own free will. I have already spent over \$500 of my own personal funds but I do not complain, knowing full well that if success attends our efforts I will be amply repaid.

It is our intention as soon as we obtain a statement under the seal of the Lord Chancery to call a public meeting of the various heirs deciding upon some plan that would seem advisable and I believe that you will agree with me that it will be best to obtain that statement before so doing. I have never felt to hesitate a moment to furnish you with any and all information and did not realize that I had either directly or indirectly expressed anything of the kind. Let me know to what you refer and if this is all that keeps you from taking an active part in the matter doubtless all can be made satisfactory.

When you came East I much regret that you did not call on us as I think I could be able to satisfy you readily as a full list of members is at my office.

Please write me your views about the matter and obligely yours,

James Usher

No. 9 Murray str.
New York City
August 24th, 1882

P. J. Lawrence Esq
Dear Sir:

Your kind favor came to hand and in reply I beg to say that I wish it to be clearly understood that I have no desire to influence any party or parties to subscribe to this fund against their own free will.

I have already spent over \$500 of my own personal funds; but I do not complain, knowing full well that if success attends our efforts I will be amply repaid.

It is our intention as soon as possible to obtain a statement under the seal of the Lord Chancellor to call a public meeting of the various lords deciding upon some plan that would be advisable and I believe that you will agree with us that it will be best to obtain this statement before so doing.

I have never felt to hesitate a moment to furnish you with any and all information and

did not realize that I had
either directly or indirectly ex-
pressed anything of the kind.
Let me know to what you re-
fer and if this is all that keeps
you from taking an active part
in the matter doubtless all can
be made satisfactory.

When you came East I much
regret that you did ^{not} call on me
as I think I could be able to
satisfy you readily as a full
list of members is at my office.

Please write me your
views about the matter and
believe yourself
Yours truly
James Coker

No 9 Clurkey St
New York City
Chas. H. H. H.

ESTABLISHED IN 1867.

UNCLAIMED MONEY AND PROPERTY.

Although not generally known, the amount of money and property left by persons dying intestate or without any direct known issue in England exceeds "two hundred million pounds sterling," and vast estates lying unclaimed in Great Britain, and its dependencies, exclusive of many estates, and properties held by those not entitled thereto.

From the days of Oliver Cromwell to the present date, a period of over three centuries, the properties of persons dying intestate in England, Scotland and Ireland, have been accumulating in chancery, awaiting the appearance of the legal heirs thereto. The amount at this date with the compound interest is so enormous that it seems almost incredible.

It is well known that many of these missing heirs are scattered throughout the United States and Canada, and could they be apprised of their good fortune would deem it no trouble to relieve the Court of Chancery of the inconvenience of caring for their interests.

Unquestionably a large proportion of this unclaimed money and property belongs to poor and obscure parties. The reason so large an amount has accumulated, and remains years and years without claimants, is that this unclaimed money and property belongs in large part to persons who feel doubtful of their ability to establish what are in reality just claims. Then again, much of this money and property is in the hands of the British Government, and to most persons it seems too formidable a proceeding even to attempt to establish their claims. It is, however, an established fact that most of this money is held simply as a "trust," and subject to the demand of the rightful heirs, and the courts are quite willing to grant orders for it to be delivered to rightful owners, where reasonable evidence is furnished as to the rights of claimants.

I find that in many instances claims have been put into the hands of first-class attorneys, who had no means of expeditiously prosecuting such cases, and the weariness of long delays and inattention has ended in a hopeless abandonment of fortunes to which claimants were justly entitled: These properties and funds can be readily recovered by the next of kin, heirs at law, or their legal representatives, without any unnecessary delay, provided their claims are instituted by persons experienced in conducting such matters, and who combine tact and resolution in prosecuting such claims.

The nominal charges made by me do not in any way recompense for the trouble and outlay incurred in investigating and proving claimants' title, but it is to my ultimate success in obtaining money or property for parties entitled to them that I look for my remuneration, that remuneration being a rate of commission to be agreed upon between the parties and myself, and to be paid after the property has been recovered.

Although I do not for a moment venture to attempt impossibilities I will give my best attention to any tangible and genuine matter entrusted to my supervision, and acting in concert with many gentlemen of great experience and high standing, both in this country and England, and having correspondence in the chief cities in Europe, I am in a position to obtain reliable information speedily and at small cost, my custom being to require payment for actual disbursements for the investigation of claims, and with this exception the claimants will be at no expense in connection with the matter, for if it appears, after a thorough investigation, that there is a reasonable chance to succeed in the case, I will prosecute it at my own risk for a commission of whatever amount I may recover.

Pedigrees and family genealogies compiled, and certificates of birth, marriage, and death obtained to verify the same; searches made for wills, letters of administration, deeds, etc.; official copies obtained from all parts of the world through responsible agents.

This agency has become a most convenient and reliable source of information, as many have through us secured large sums of money due them, I make a specialty of this claim business, and have an unusually large and well-arranged amount of information appertaining thereto, and would be pleased to hear from all persons who believe themselves entitled to money and property. Such persons are cautioned against entrusting their affairs in the hands of any one unqualified to conduct matters of such importance. "Unequalled facilities and highest reference."

A Register containing the Address,

names & descriptions of over JAMES USHER,

*two persons who have been
advised for to claim money
property will be sent you on
receipt of 25 cents in postage
stamps.*

Law and Collection Offices,

NO. 9 MURRAY STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

LANPHERE'S AGENCY,

For Establishing and Collecting Foreign and American Claims.

There are a great number of persons legally entitled to large sums of money, in this and in Foreign Countries, who have not the slightest idea what steps to take, or who can successfully aid and direct them in securing their rights.

There are thousands of men and women entitled to fortunes, who feel that death and the lapse of time, stand as nearly or quite insurmountable difficulties between them and their claims. In many instances these claims have been put into the hands of first-class attorneys who had no means of expeditiously prosecuting such cases, and the weariness of long delays and inattention has ended in a hopeless abandonment of fortunes to which claimants were justly entitled.

We make this Business a Speciality. With our facilities, secured at a large expense, for tracing out Genealogies, and Family Pedigees together with the original Coats-of-Arms.

We can hardly fail to meet with success in looking up and securing well-founded claims, no matter how intricate they may appear, from distances and the expiration of many long years.

We find in our records of unclaimed property many thousand names. We are prepared to furnish you information concerning any claim, without long and tedious delay.

We have had the satisfaction of knowing that large numbers of persons are provided with a competency for life who had felt that their claims were wholly beyond their reach, by reason of legal complications.

We have spared no pains or trouble to prepare ourselves to meet every possible emergency that may arise in our business, and we feel and do not hesitate to assure you, that if you have a just claim we have every means for searching it out and securing for you your rights in the shortest possible time.

Should you desire it we will, for an interest in the claim, prosecute and collect it at our own expense, charging you only a small fee for a preliminary examination as to the validity and probable chance of securing the claim you desire us to obtain.

We have published a book containing much valuable information, together with rulings and decisions, some names wanted, with cases that are interesting and instructive, as well as amusing, showing how many curious circumstances and trifling things become important in our lives, which we will mail, post paid, for 25 cents, (about cost of publishing,) in postage stamps or cash to any address desired.

Communications are particularly invited from all persons knowing or supposing themselves to be entitled to property within the Kingdom of Great Britain or Ireland.

Our preliminary charges are as follows: For furnishing information as to whether your family name appears, and in connection with what class of claim.....\$1.00

For furnishing copy of advertisement with date thereof.....\$3.00

For searching and furnishing extracts from our records, &c., &c , with brief opinion as to the probability of your claim.....\$5.00

For full investigation of our records, and such comparison and examination of records and documents which you may be able to furnish, as will satisfy us concerning the correctness and justice of your claim.....\$15.00

Forward by Draft, Post Office Order, Registered Letter or Express all fees and important papers.

Letters of inquiry answered without charge where stamps for postage are enclosed.

Address

LANPHERE'S AGENCY,

9 MURRAY STREET,

NEW YORK CITY.

P. J. Lawrence Esq
Sir

Yours to hand.

In our opinion we think certain
that there is sufficient encourage-
ment in the matter to warrant
the publication of the article & have
every reason to expect a satisfactory
termination. If you find that you
are unable to influence its publica-
tion please return the same to us
as soon as convenient

Yours
James Usher
Stephen Usher

#9 Murray St
New York City
March 4th 1882

PRESS, AND NEARLY READY.
A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

LAWRENCE & TOWNLEY CASE,
OF ENGLAND.
Including the Genealogy of the Family.

I am publishing in book form the History of the above families and case, which I have for a considerable length of time past been engaged in investigating for certain parties interested therein; having obtained possession of all the documents relating to this case collected by the late HON. D. B. CARVER, and others who devoted many years of their lives to unearthing records and traditions relating to the families interested in, and connected with, the above-mentioned Estate, with which aid I have after years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances thoroughly examined the case, with the assistance of some of the most eminent Barristers, and Solicitors, in London, and now I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have been unprecedentedly successful in procuring an authentic statement from the *Court Officials at London, England*, and accomplished what never has been done before in this case, by any effort of this kind, single, or combined; and I have no hesitation whatever, in saying that I have a complete and reliable report of this case collected from the records of the *High Court of Chancery, in England*, and from other reliable sources.

The report is very lengthy, and for fullness of matter, minuteness of details, and accurate accounts, I believe no book of this character will exceed it.

The book, in addition to much other valuable Historical and Genealogical matter, contains also a genealogy of the LAWRENCE FAMILY.

In its preparation, tribute has been laid upon all sources of information, Town, County and State records have been consulted; State, Genealogical, and other Libraries have added to my knowledge. Family and Town histories have yielded up their treasures, family bibles, and the memory of the aged have aided in this work.

This volume will be a treasury of interesting and memorable facts collected from many sources, with much trouble and at no inconsiderable cost.

I therefore propose to have it published. Persons who have any desire to inform themselves thoroughly, and to know everything of a reliable nature that can be gathered about this case and also of the history of the family, can do so by forwarding to me the sum of \$2, and they will receive a copy of the book as soon as the same is issued, which will be very shortly, or the book can be sent C. O. D. *Only a limited number of copies will be printed for the use of those connected with the family and interested in the case, and the book will only be sold to subscribers.*

THE WORK WILL BE AN OCTAVO VOLUME. Promptness is the life-blood of every enterprise: will you therefore kindly oblige me with the names and addresses of those you know to be connected with the family, and who are likely to become interested in this work; and the number of copies you desire.

I have also procured portraits and views of the famous Townley Hall of Lancashire; also of Corby Castle of Cumberland, showing a very magnificent edifice picturesquely situated at the head of a large lake, looking over a vast extent of country.

The Editor respectfully appeals to the members of the Family to manifest their approval of this undertaking by giving it the necessary support.

Address

JAMES USHER,

59 Murray Street,

NEW YORK CITY.

TO BE OBTAINED ONLY BY SUBSCRIPTION.

A FULL AND COMPLETE HISTORY

OF THE

TOWNLEY LAWRENCE CASE,

OF ENGLAND.

I am about to publish in book form the History of the above case, which I have for a considerable length of time past been engaged in investigating, for certain parties interested therein, having obtained possession of all the documents relating to this case, collected by the late HON. D. B. CARVER, and others, with which aid I have after years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances thoroughly examined the case, with the assistance of some of the most eminent Barristers, and Solicitors in London, and now I enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that I have been unprecedentedly successful in procuring an authentic statement from the *Court Officials at London, England*, and accomplished what never has been done before in this case, by any effort of this kind, single or combined; and now I have no hesitation whatever in saying that I have a complete and reliable report of this case, collected from the records of the *High Court of Chancery, in England*, and from other reliable sources.

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Address

JAMES USHER,
6 MURRAY STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

Grand Rapids Mich

Dec 24th
1888

Dear Community Delegates - Mrs Eaton
& Mrs Taylor returned from Toronto
& all is right - will explain further
at another time all is explained &
the standing of the men is good
their will cannot easily be a general
full and the same parties for a
meeting in Detroit & the Toronto
Parties will be their asking all
to take a part in a reorganization
of the consolidated association &
election of officers & assuming for incorpo-
ration & completed - Legal Association
the best seen & all right - Explicitly
Mrs Jones will ^{have} ~~be~~ with it right
man. I'll excuse me for this time

Mrs S C Eaton

Grand Rapids, Michigan
December 24, 1885

Our committee delegates, Mr. Eaton and Mr. Dufea returned from Toronto and all is right- Will explain further at another time. All is explained and the standing of the men is good. There will doubtless be a general meeting in Detroit and the Toronto parties will be there asking all to a part in the re-organization of the consolidated association and election of officers and assuring for -----(?) and complete legal association. The ----(?) seem all right. Emphatically Mr. Geare will be here with it next Monday. Excuse for hastening

Mrs. S. E. Walton

1882

Jan 4 Windsor Henry
county Mo

Mr P J Lawrence

Dear Sir your Favor of
Dec 30 is just Received and
in Regard to your in query in
regard to my ancestors I would
just say that I am the young^{est}
of our family and my Parents
Both Died when I was quite
young that I can not give you
as full a history as some
of the older ones of the family
My Father's name was Dimeon
he was Borne in 1779 in the
State of Connecticut in the town
of Cannon and was Married in
Hartford in 1804 and moved from
the town of Schuectady to Meigs
county Ohio about the year

1818 or 19 My Grand Father's
name was John he was ~~an~~ an -
English man and Died in the
State of Massachusetts and was
Buried in Berkshire County my
Father had four or five Brothers
I do not know all their names
they all lived in the State of
New York have lost all trace
of them have not heard from
them for over forty years one
of them was named Lewis one ^{iel} Van
one all one Philomel one Abe
my Great grand father's name
I do not know If you wish for
a fuller history my oldest Brother
is still living in Meigs County
Ohio and I can give you a
more correct history his Post
office is Portland now If
you will be so kind as
to give me a history of your
ancestors I will esteem it as a

great favor and any further
in formation I shall
I shall be glad to furnish if
in my position

Yours (very
Respectfully

Simeon Lawrence

P S My Brothers name
is Henry S Lawrence

Letter to Porter Jewett Lawrence from Simeon Lawrence, January 4th, 1882

Mr. P. J. Lawrence

Dear Sir: Your favor of December 30th (1881) is just received and in regard to your inquiry in regard to my ancestors, I would just say that I am the youngest of our family and my parents both died when I was quite young that I cannot give you as full a history as some of the older ones of the family.

My father's name was Simeon. He was borne in 1779 in the State of Connecticut in the town of Canaan and was married in Hartford in 1804 and moved from the town of Schenectady (N.Y.) to Meigs County, Ohio about the year 1818-1819. My grandfathers name was John. He was an Englishman and died in the State of Massachusetts and was buried in Berkshire County. My father had four or five brothers. I do not know all their names. They all lived in the State of New York. I have lost all trace of them (and) have not heard from them for over forty years. One of them was named Lewis, one Daniel, one Ace, one Philomel, and one A-eph(?). My great grandfather's name I do not know. If you wish for a fuller history my oldest brother is still living in Meigs County, Ohio and can give you a more correct history. His post office is Portland. Now if you will be so kind as to give me a history of your ancestors I will esteem it as a great favor and any further information I shall be glad to furnish if in my possession.

Yours very Respectfully

Simeon Lawrence

P.S. My brother's name is Henry S. Lawrence.

LOOKING FOR LUCRE.

The American "Heirs" Will Move on Their English Estates.

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY-CHASE CLAIMANTS WILL SEND S. H. BLAKE TO ENGLAND.

One hundred Lawrence-Townley-Chase heirs of various degrees of consanguinity and from divers points of the continent, from Quebec to San Diego, were present at Fraternity Hall yesterday morning when the international convention proper of the heirs began. Mayor G. W. Ostrem, of Tranton, Ont., was chosen Chairman of the meeting and L. E. Farrar, of Fort Gratiot, and F. R. Chase, of San Diego, Cal., Secretaries.

Chairman Ostrem said that all present seemed to be united on the general fact that a Townley estate existed, now being enjoyed by certain parties. Certain persons in America claimed a better right to enjoy the estates. And it was desired to secure united effort to investigate the matter. He himself knew how futile it was to attempt to investigate the matter without the aid of both good American and English lawyers as he had once looked up an estate in England.

W. Northcote Gears, of Toronto, President of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association, gave a somewhat elaborate story of the origin of the estates and the line of descent from John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III. But the heirs did not appear very deeply interested therein. He argued that the English possessors had used every means in their power to discomfit the American heirs, and told of mutilated records. He produced a huge Bible, which was given by Thomas Lawrence to his brother John Lawrence, Mary Townley's husband and ancestor of a great majority of the claimants. The family record had been cut out of this volume. He also showed a smaller Bible, now owned by Dr. Upjohn, of Hastings, that did contain important family records. Some person had attempted to tear the record out of this, but they had only torn out Revelations, getting the book wrong end to.

Sturgeon Stewart, the dapper and intelligent Secretary of the Association, said the Townley estate proper was between Manchester and Burnley and now had a rental of \$800,000 per annum. This was but a small portion of the contested property. The purpose of the meeting to-day was to so unite as to push to a successful issue the work that the Consolidated Association had been engaged in for ten months. This could only be done by grand, harmonious, united effort.

President Lawrence, of the Michigan Association, urged procedure to business. How were the heirs to prove descent if there was an estate? How was the money for investigation to be raised? How much would it take? What was to be done with it?

Adjournment for dinner was had. The forenoon session had been very unsatisfactory and the expectant heirs did not conceal their displeasure; but the officers arranged an afternoon programme of decided interest. The attendance had slightly increased when the body reconvened. The Chair promptly introduced L. C. Hall, an attorney of Canandaigua, N. Y. He said that he was not the attorney of any of the Townley Association or a claimant of any of the estate, and appeared on the platform by conscription, not as a volunteer. He would say as a lawyer, as all lawyers must say, that the Parliamentary act of August, 1885, neither strengthened nor weakened any claim the American heirs might have in the estates. It is simply an act passed by consent of certain persons. It affects none others than those and says so plainly. Forty persons are barred by consent. The first of these is the Earl of Abingdon. None but these are barred. And there is a saving clause that so specifies distinctly. The act provides for the government of the estate for 3,000 years by trustees, and orders the raising at once by rentals of say \$1,500,000 to pay the claimants who have consented to be barred. If you people ever had any claim you have it yet. But there should be unity of claimants. You must get business in shape if you desire to do anything. There ought to be no clashing. And if I were a Townley heir I would be willing to spend some money to settle this matter once for all. There are two courses—one to go there to start an action immediately; the other to send men there to give faithful investigation to it. Considerable expense would be attached to that. It would be well to set it early for if the present private act were to be followed by a grant from the Crown, con-

the Antislavery House parlor at which miscellaneous matters were discussed. Among other things Secretary Stewart presented London solicitors' opinions to the effect that the case of the Lawrence-Townley claimants was a good one and that "if their pedigree was all right they should have no difficulty in obtaining the estates, for the late act was for the express object of permitting a deviation from the laws of inheritance and rendering a division feasible." It plainly appears from the act that persons not directly heirs of Mary Townley, to whom the property, or a large portion of it descends by wills, settlements, etc., but descendants of uncles, cousins, aunts and what not, are receiving part of the income in the absence of the true heirs.

There was some discussion as to the division in event of winning the fabled millions. It was generally conceded that the division should be that if any of the lines of heirs won the estate all who could prove relationship, whether in the direct line or not, should have an equal portion. This manner of proposition will probably finally be drawn up and signed by the officers of the principal and auxiliary associations.

At a late hour the "heirs" separated and the international convention was over.

Edgar Weeks, the original attorney of the Michigan association, gives the proceedings of the convention his approval. He says it is an intelligent way to go at the problem. Mr. Weeks sat in the body of the hall yesterday and put in a great deal of time poring over the voluminous Townley act.

Col. E. H. Sellers sat in the convention as attorney of some Detroit heirs.

The three Canadian trustees who have been deputed to report on the bearings of the property in question, are among the front rank of Canadian citizens. S. H. Blake is an ex-Vice-Chancellor of Ontario, and head of one of the most prominent legal firms in the Province. Erastus Wyman is a wealthy Canadian who made his fortune in New York. He is a director of the Western Union Telegraph Company and President of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company of Canada. W. H. Howland is Mayor of Toronto.

July 28th 1883

DETROIT FREE PRESS.

A FABULOUS FORTUNE.

Michigan People Who Will Inherit \$100,000,000.

Edgar Weeks, the lawyer, is engaged in the work of looking up the branches to a family tree of an old English house starting from the parent trunk sometime in the seventeenth century. The object of his search is to prove the descent of a number of people in Michigan and Canada from John Lawrence and Mary Townley. If the relationship can be established, a fortune amounting to about \$20,000,000 will come into their hands.

Among the supposed heirs are Mrs. D. V. Bell, Mrs. F. H. Seymour and Mrs. Phebe Massecar, of Detroit, Mrs. John W. Squires, of Grand Rapids, Mrs. E. Merrifield, of Lansing, Mrs. Lydia M. Wright, of Memphis, and Mrs. Almira M. Zimmerman, of North Branch. Of their descent from John Lawrence they have no doubt, but owing to the two centuries that have elapsed since the marriage of their wealthy ancestors the legal proof is difficult to obtain.

In 1827 the vast estate was adjudged to belong to the descendants of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, and an advertisement to that effect was published in the official paper of the English Government. Since that time numerous advertisements have appeared in the English papers for the heirs and several meetings have been held in the United States and Canada of persons claiming to be the descendants.

In 1690 John Lawrence, second officer of H. M. S. Highflyer, married Mary Townley, being obliged to elope on account of difference of religion. Their marriage took place at the Hague. After ineffectual attempts to bring about a reconciliation with their parents the husband and wife returned to the Hague, where they lived till 1713. In that year they came America, finally settling in Walpole, Mass., in 1738. There is but one family of Lawrences that are descended from John Lawrence and Mary Townley. This family is descended from Joseph the third son. The heirs in this State are of the fourth and fifth generation.

Mr. Weeks has collected a vast amount of proofs, the major portion being church and family records, deeds and wills, dating back for a century and a half. He also has an agent in England at work on the case. Genealogical records have been compiled giving the line of Townleys from 1560 to 1813, at which time the male line of the Townleys became extinct.

But few links in the chain are missing, and Mr. Weeks is confident that these will be supplied and that his clients will obtain a large share of the fabulous fortune now in the Bank of England.

Continued on the back of this sheet

set at it early for the present private act were to be followed by a grant from the Crown, confirmed by another act of Parliament, that would settle the estate forever.

Mayor Ostrom introduced Hon. Samuel H. Blake, of Toronto, ex-Vice Chancellor of Ontario. Mr. Blake has a massive peculiarly English face. He is a strong and logical speaker. While he gave free expression to both sides of the problem of the fortune his lucid ideas inserted a noticeable amount of backbone into the subsequent proceedings. He said: "If you have an estate in England you want to know it. There are two or three points immaterial in this connection. The value of the estate if of no importance. It is conceded to be worth \$15,000,000. Complete tracing of genealogy is unimportant until the existence of the estate is demonstrated. If you were promised Paradise would you first trace your genealogy to Adam or find out if the promiser could give you Paradise? Then that act of Parliament, you get nothing and lose nothing by it. Throwing these aside is there not a question that interests all heirs at the threshold of this whole matter? Erastus Wyman and W. H. Howland—and these are well-known names in Canada—will act with myself in finally reporting on investigation. I have advised the Toronto Association to send some one to England to visit Yorkshire and Lancashire and ascertain how the estate stands, then to submit the facts about the estate to two leading counselors of London and ask their opinion as to whether the statute of limitations bars American claimants. This is the advice I should give in a simple ejectment suit. If favorable opinions are received, then suit might be commenced, with all American heirs as common claimants. They might be incorporated as an Association for Reclaiming the Townley Estates. It was a vast matter to open, but what would be a heavy expense to one, would be light, distributed among many people.

"The possibility that the American claims are still alive comes because the statute of limitations may not run in favor of trustees to the exclusion of claimants. You should waste no more intelligence, time and money. Prepare to grasp at this matter now, to find out what there is to it, or abandon its pursuit and engage in other affairs. Mr. Geare has asked me to go to England and begin investigation. Other business calls me there the 1st of February. I could place the matter in the hands of Bishop, Pompos, Fox & Co., leading and most reliable London barristers. But I could not do this without depositing money for their work. Three thousand dollars ought to pay for the investigation. Opinions expressed by me as to the probable failure or success of the heirs would be equally wrong. The success of a case depends on facts. There is no hopes of success unless the facts are obtained."

Mr. Blake answered a great many questions, but declined to express opinions on the outcome. However, when he had done a sharp-featured male delegate arose in the rear end of the room and asked: "How soon'll we get our money?" He replied that the preliminary investigation occupy four months. He said that the ending of necessity was conjecture.

The convention, after some discussion, proceeded to business. The following was adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the eminently satisfactory, clear and definite statements and views of the various speakers at this convention of the Lawrence-Chase-Townley claimants, it is hereby resolved that in the opinion of this convention a united effort should be made at once, and once for all, to ascertain the position of the estate and moneys claimed by the Lawrence-Chase-Townley heirs.

D. B. Richardson, of Millington, attorney for a group of heirs in Tuscola County, offered the following which were also adopted:

Resolved, That the officers of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association of Toronto be instructed to proceed immediately to a preliminary investigation of the Lawrence, Townley and Chase estates in England, and establish: First, Is there such an estate to be inherited? Second, does the statute of limitations bar the claimants in America and England from obtaining said estate?

Resolved, That the expense of said investigation be borne by voluntary contributions from all claimants in the United States and Canada, said contribution to be collected before said investigation is commenced and as soon as possible.

Mrs. L. E. Welton, of Grand Rapids, supported by N. L. Eaton, of Cleveland, offered the following:

Resolved, That in order to carry out the spirit of the resolution just passed this meeting pledges itself through the various associations and parties interested to raise a sum of money not exceeding \$5,000 at once in order to make the necessary investigation and procure from sources in England a report on the question of the position of these estates.

This was adopted unanimously and followed by one designating S. H. Blake as the person to carry on the investigation. He expressed thanks.

Considerable money and a number of pledges were raised in the audience. The Belleville Association delegates announced that they had raised \$600, which they were ready to contribute.

President Lawrence, of the Michigan Association, was named as the person through whom the local funds should pass as Treasurer of the proper parties at Toronto.

Adjourned sine die.
Last evening there was an informal meeting at

HEIR TO A MILLION.

A St. Louisan Entitled to a Portion of the Great Townley Estate.

[St. Louis telegram.]

The Liverpool *Weekly Post* of recent date announces that by an act of Parliament, passed August 4, the British Government has decided to pay over to all the legal heirs of the Lawrence Townley estate their proper portion of the money. This estate amounts to the enormous sum of \$800,000,000 in money and 400,000 acres of land. The estate would have been divided thirty-four years ago, but through the false claim of one Talmy, it was thrown into chancery, where it remained twenty-six years. The estate was inherited by four brothers of the Chase family, three of whom—William, Aquila, and Thomas—came to this country before the Revolutionary war. The direct heirs of these three brothers in America number about 800. Many of them are supposed to reside in Missouri. One of those who have put in claims is L. T. Austin, of No. 224 East Stein street, South St. Louis. He will be entitled to several million dollars when the estate is settled. Mr. Austin says that a number of the other heirs who have not put in their claims are supposed to be residents of St. Louis. Mr. Stein's grandmother prosecuted the claim in 1846, but died at the advanced age of 100 years while it was still in litigation. Mr. Austin is now working on the Transf. Railway in South St. L.

THE CHASE-TOWNLEY HEIRS

FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH A VIEW TO GETTING MILLIONS FROM ENGLAND.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 2.—[Special.]—The convention of the Chase-Townley heirs was called to order this morning at 11 o'clock. It was stated that Col. Starr of Halifax was on the way with an official copy of papers relative to the Chase estate.

Mr. J. W. Patton introduced a resolution providing for the appointment of a General Executive Committee with power to call a national convention whenever deemed necessary and to prosecute the investigation of the English records in the interests of the Chase heirs. The committee is authorized to employ a reputable attorney to assist it in its researches, should it be deemed advisable to do so. Mr. Patton stated that it would be the object of the committee to ascertain first if there is such an estate as the Chase-Townley estate, and, second, if it is possible for the American heirs and descendants of Robert Chase to obtain their share thereof.

On motion of Mr. P. S. Tarver the following committee was appointed to consider the resolution: G. W. Patton, P. S. Tarver, A. H. Chean, O. Rice, A. Healy, O. G. Shanks, and C. Kennedy. The convention then took a recess until 2 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock the committee appointed to consider the Patton resolution reported favorably upon it, with the addition that the Executive Committee shall consist of two representatives from each State. The report was adopted.

THE TOWNLEY ESTATE.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1.—[Special.]—The convention of the Chase-Townley heirs at the Laclede day was attended by the following claimants in interest in that \$800,000,000 estate: W. H. Denton, Tex.; Orenco Rice, Grapae, T. Austin, St. Louis; M. A. Barnett, St. L.; H. Wallace Kerwin, Kan.; J. O. Huston, Kan.; N. H. Capron, Boone, Iowa; Mrs. J. S. Terre Haute, Ind.; E. Healy, Earlsville, Mo.; Andrew Wiseman, Terre Haute; E. H. Long, Prairie, Ill.; L. R. Chase, Iowa; G. W. Van Buren, Victoria, Ill.; Erburn, Plattsburg, Mo.; Jonathan Chase, Water, Neb.; J. D. Baker, Ottumwa, Iowa; Ward, Brighton, Ill.; Joseph Born, Ash-O. C. Hicks, Bushnell, Ill.; L. H. Hauss, Ill.; S. W. Chase, Winfield, Kan.; L. A. Kirkville, Mo.; W. B. Cole, Lake City, Mo.; M. W. Dewitt, Clinton, Mo.; F. W. Coria, Ill.; J. Boscame, Chippewa, Mo.; W. Jackson, Tenn.; William Kennedy, Des Moines, Iowa; J. R. Sage, Bonaparte, Iowa; G. n. Pontiac, Iowa. The following were officers: W. J. Austin, president; O. C. cretary, and M. S. Barnett, treasurer. Another meeting will be held to-morrow.

RAILWAY NOTES.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 1.—The managers of the continental association are voting by telegraph for the place of holding the next meeting. The sentiment is divided between New

AFTER \$800,000,000.

THE CLAIMANTS OF THE CHASE-TOWNLEY ESTATE ORGANIZE AND WILL TRY TO GET THE PROPERTY FROM THE ENGLISH CROWN.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1.—[Special.]—The heirs and claimants of the famous Chase-Townley estate in chancery in England, valued at \$800,000,000, assembled in convention at the Laclede Hotel today. The property was the accumulation of Sir Richard Townley, and reverted to the Crown in the latter part of the sixteenth century, when its possessor was executed for high treason. Subsequently it was released and transferred to Robert Chase, nearest living relative. Robert Chase had four sons, three of whom emigrated to America prior to the transfer of the estate to their father. On the death of the father, it is claimed, the estate fell to one son, named Robert, and the three who settled in Massachusetts were never notified. On the death of Robert it again reverted to the crown, and has been held until now for claimants. The following heirs signed the convention-roll here today:

J. W. Austin and F. W. Townley, Benton, Tex.; C. M. Wood, Chicago; W. A. Howett, Hillsboro, Ill.; C. E. White, Moline, Ill.; J. C. Shanks, Portland, Ia.; D. A. Chase, Brighton, Ill.; H. Wier, Carlinville, Ill.; W. A. McCallum, Bruerville, Ill.; F. W. Sibley, Barracks, Austin, St. Louis; M. S. Barnett, St. Louis; C. H. Wallace, Kirwin, Kas.; J. C. Huston, Walnut, Kas.; N. H. Capron, Boone, Ia.; Mrs. J. H. Briggs, Terre Haute, Ind.; E. Healy, Earlsville, Ia.; Mrs. A. H. Long, Prairie, Ill.; L. R. Chase, Fort Dodge, Ia.; G. W. Van Buren, Victoria, Ill.; A. T. Aterburn, Plattsburg, Mo.; Jonathan Chase, Weeping Water, Neb.; J. D. Baker, Ottumwa, Ia.; G. Willard, Brighton, Ill.; J. Osborn, Ashley, Ill.; C. C. Hicks, Bushnell, Ill.; L. H. Hauss, Woodlawn, Ill.; S. W. Chase, Winfield, Kas.; L. W. Chase, Kirksville, Mo.; W. D. Cole, Lake Crystal, Minn.; M. W. DeWitt, Clinton, Mo.; F. C. Chase, Peoria, Ill.; J. J. Cascone, Chippewa, Mo.; L. T. Krap, Jackson, Tenn.; William Kennedy, Des Moines, Ia.; J. R. Sage, Bonaparte, Ia.; G. W. Patton, Pontiac, Ia.

The convention organized, appointed committees, and will make arrangements to secure the estate.

A Pretty Plan to Get.

MARCH 14.

In the telegraphic columns of Wednesday's REGISTER appeared an article relative to the partial settlement of the long-disputed estate of Lord Townley of England, valued at \$100,000,000. Of this amount \$40,000,000 has been handed over to relatives in New York State. It appears that Lord Townley had a willful little daughter, who married an honorable Englishman of good but poor family, contrary to her sire's desires, and consequently was cut off without a shilling. On the death of the Lord no heirs being at hand the large estate passed into the control of the government. In the meantime the gritty daughter, who had married John Lawrence, came to New York. They became the ancestors of a long line of descendants. Among others are three Rockfords who came in the direct line of Lawrences. They are Mrs. L. M. West, Mrs. Henry Peers and Mrs. Nancy Brown, all sisters and all Lawrences before marriage. They came direct from the line of descendants of Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence. The branch of the house of which the Rockfords are members, have been laboring some years to establish their claim to a share of the property and their attorneys say that the prospects are very good. In case a few millions fall to their branch of the house, the Rockford claimants would come in for a plump plump apiece.

The Lawrence-Townley Estate.

Editor World: Permit us to say a few words in reply to some statements made by U. S. Minister Phelps, a gentleman of strict integrity and honesty of purpose, which are being extensively circulated through the press in Canada and the United States.

Mr. Phelps states that there is no money in the bank of England belonging to the Lawrence-Townley estate, or to any claimants under either.

Replying to this we may say the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley association does not claim that there is any large amount of money in the bank of England for the Lawrence-Townley or Chase-Townley claimants, for though we have reason to believe there was, it has probably been gobbled up by the present usurping claimants who are now and have been for years wrongfully receiving the revenues of those estates.

Mr. Phelps again states there is no such estate in England as the Lawrence-Townley estate, nor any family of that designation.

No one with any great knowledge of the matter has ever claimed that there was a Lawrence-Townley estate in England, nor has it been claimed that there is a family of that designation in England. There is, however, a Townley estate in England, to which the Lawrence-Townley and Chase-Townley families of America claim to be entitled, and justly so; of which fact we have incontrovertible evidence in our possession which we can show any person who will call at the office of our association, 21 Yonge street arcade, Toronto. We have a copy of the act of the parliament of Great Britain and Ireland, passed Aug. 4, 1885, intitled "The Townley Estates Act," defined as follows: An act for carrying into effect the division of certain hereditaments known as the Townley estates in the counties of Lancaster and York, the estate in the forest of Bowland and the Stella and Stanley estates in the county of Durham, and for other purposes, 43 and 49 Victoria, session 1885.

The estate is not in possession of any one at the present time, but is held by several trustees in the interests of the true heirs. The names of the trustees as given in the said act are as follows: Sir Nicholas William George Throckmorton, Sir George Russell and Henry Riversdale Grenfell for the Townley estate; and for the Bowland and Stella estates, Edward Henry Petre, Henry Stourton Arnold, William White and Samuel Bircham. These trustees appear to have certain powers over the income of these estates, and are paying the greater portion of it to certain parties, who, by long occupation in the absence of the true heirs, have gradually become recognized as the owners, but who have no

THE CHASE-TOWNLEY HEIRS.

Claimants of Estates in England Worth \$800,000,000 Assemble in St. Louis.

Special Telegram to The Inter Ocean.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 30.—About fifteen representatives of the 800 American heirs to the celebrated Chase-Townley estate in England are at the Laclede Hotel, and this afternoon held an informal meeting preliminary to the convention of the heirs to-morrow, at which it is thought that nearly a hundred people will be present. The object of the convention is given in the following circular in response to which the heirs are present:

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 12.—To the Chase Heirs: The British Parliament having passed an act Aug. 4, 1885, providing for the distribution of the Chase-Townley estate (estimated at \$800,000,000), to the legal heirs who may prove their claims within a limited time, the prompt and united action of all descendants of William, Thomas, and Aquila Chase becomes necessary. For the purpose of forming a Chase association in the West and for such action as may be deemed advisable, a convention of those interested will be held at the Laclede Hotel, St. Louis, at 1 o'clock p. m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1885. All who can possibly attend are urgently requested to be present. Those unable to attend the convention are requested to send copies of any records or documents they may have bearing on the case.

Preliminary committee: L. T. Austin, E. M. Snappington, E. D. Thorne, M. S. Barnett.

E. D. Thorne, corresponding secretary, No. 105 North Channing avenue, St. Louis, Mo.

The story to which these heirs pin their hope of getting this \$800,000,000 begins in 1747, when Charles Stuart, the pretender, invaded England; Sir William Townley, an Englishman of wealth, joined him at Manchester, and was taken prisoner at the fatal battle of Bannockburn, executed for high treason, and his estate confiscated. Afterward, in 1844, they were released from confiscation by Lord Brougham and reverted to his family, but as he had no children they went to the heirs of his grandfather, Sir Robert Chase. Sir Robert had four sons, one of whom, Richard, lived and died in England, while the other three—William, Thomas, and Aquila—came to America and settled in Yarmouth, Haverhill, and Newburyport, Mass. When Lord Brougham restored the estate to the heirs he decided that each of the brothers should have one-fourth. The heirs of Richard got their share, but those of Thomas, William and Aquila have not been able yet to obtain restitution. So they believe they have a good case against the British Government.

"I don't believe, myself, that one dollar of this money will ever come to America," said Joseph N. Briggs, of Terre Haute, to-day, whose wife is one of the heirs. "Just think of it—\$800,000,000! I don't believe the English Government will ever allow that much money to leave the country. But we've got a good case, and we intend to fight for it."

THE DETROIT FREE PRESS

Looking for Lucre

The American Heirs Will Move on Their English Estates

The Lawrence-Townley-Chase Claimants Will Send S. H. Blake to England

One hundred Lawrence-Townley-Chase heirs of various degrees of consanguinity and from diverse points of the continent, from Quebec to San Diego, were present at Fraternity Hall yesterday morning when the international convention proper of the heirs began. Mayor G. W. Ostrem of Trenton, Ontario, was chosen chairman of the meeting and L. E. Farrar, of Fort Gratiot, and F. R. Chase, of San Diego, California Secretaries.

Chairman Ostrem said that all present seemed to be united on the general fact that a Townley estate existed, now being enjoyed by certain parties. Certain persons in America claimed a better right to enjoy the estates. And it was desired to secure united effort to investigate the matter. He himself knew how futile it was to attempt to investigate the matter without the aid of both good American and English lawyers as he had once looked up an estate in England. W. Northcote Geare of Toronto, President of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association, gave a somewhat elaborate story of the origin of the estates and the line of descent from John of Gaunt, fourth son of Edward III. But the heirs did not appear very deeply interested therein. He argued that the English possessors had used every means in their power to discomfit the American heirs, and told of mutilated records. He produced a huge Bible which was given by Thomas Lawrence to his brother John Lawrence, Mary Townley's husband and ancestor of a great majority of the claimants. The family record had been cut out of this volume. He also showed a small Bible, now owned by Dr. Upjohn of Hastings, that did contain important family records. Some person had attempted to tear the record out of this but they had only torn out Revelations, getting the book the wrong end to.

Sturgeon Stewart, the dapper and intelligent Secretary of the Association, said the Townley Estate proper was between Manchester and Burnley and now had a rental of \$800,000 per annum. This was but a small portion of the contested property. The purpose of the meeting today was to so unite as to push to a successful issue the work that the Consolidated Association had been engaged in for ten months. This could only be done by grand, harmonious, united effort.

President Lawrence, of the Michigan Association, urged procedure to business. How were the heirs to prove descent if there was an estate? How was the money for investigation to be raised? How much would it take? What was to be done with it?

Adjournment for dinner was had. The forenoon session had been very unsatisfactory and the expectant heirs did not conceal their displeasure; but the officers arranged an afternoon program of decided interest. The attendance had slightly increased when the body reconvened. The Chair promptly introduced L. O. Hall, an attorney of Canandaigua, New York. He said he was not the attorney of any of the Townley Association or a claimant of the estate, and appeared on the platform by conscription, not as a volunteer. He would say as a lawyer, as all lawyers must say, that the Parliamentary act of August, 1885, neither strengthened nor weakened any claim the American heirs might have in the estates. It is simply an act passed by consent of certain persons. It effects none other than those, and says so plainly. Forty persons are barred by consent. The first of these is the Earl of Abington. None but these are barred. And there is a saving clause that so specifies distinctly. The act provides for the government of the estate for 3,000 years by trustees, and orders the raising at once by rentals of say \$1,500,000 to pay the claimants who have consented to be barred. If you people ever had any claim, you have it yet. But there should be unity of claimants. You must get business in shape if you desire to do anything. There ought to be no clashing. And if I were a Townley heir I would be willing to spend some money to settle this matter once and for all. There are two courses of action: 1. To go there and start an Action. The other immediately; the other is to send a man there to give faithful investigation to it. Considerable expense would be attached to that. It would be well to set at it early, for if the present private act were to be followed by a grant from the crown, confirmed by another act of parliament, that would settle the estate forever.

Mayor Ostrem introduced the Honorable Samuel H. Blake of Toronto, ex-vice Chancellor of Ontario. Mr. Blake has a massive peculiarly English face. He is a strong and logical speaker. While he gave free expression to both sides of the problem of the fortune, his lucid ideas inserted a noticeable amount of backbone into the subsequent proceedings. He said, "If you have an Estate in England you want to know it. There are two or three points which are immaterial in this connection. The value of the estate is of no importance. It is conceded to be worth \$15,000,000. Complete tracing of genealogy is unimportant until the existence of the Estate is demonstrated. If you were promised Paradise, would you first trace your genealogy to Adam or find out if the promiser could give you Paradise? Then that act of Parliament, you get nothing and lose nothing by it. Throwing these aside, is there not a question that all heirs at the threshold of this matter? Erastus Wyman and W. H. Howland- and these are well known names in Canada- will act with myself in finally reporting on the investigation. I have advised the Toronto Association to send someone to England to visit Yorkshire and Lancashire and ascertain how the estate stands, then to submit the facts about the estates to two leading counselors of London and ask the opinion as to whether the statute of limitations bars American claimants. This is the advice I should give in a simple ejectment suit. If favorable opinions are received, then the suit might be commenced, with all American heirs as common claimants. They might be incorporated as an Association for Reclaiming the Townley Estates. It was a vast

matter to open, but what would be a heavy expense for one, would be light, distributed among many people.

"The possibility that the American claims are still alive comes because the statute of limitations may not run in favor of trustees to the exclusion of claimants. You should waste no more intelligence, time and money. Prepare to grasp at this matter now, to find out what there is to it, or abandon its pursuit and engage in other affairs. Mr. Geare has asked me to go to England and begin investigation. Other business calls me there the 1st of February. I could place the matter in the hands of Bishop, Pompous, Fox and Co., leading and most reliable London barristers. But I could not do this without depositing money for their work. Three thousand dollars ought to pay for the investigation. Opinions expressed by me as to the probable success or failure of the heirs would be equally wrong. The success of a case depends on facts. There is no hope of success unless the facts are obtained."

Mr. Blake answered a great many questions, but declined to express opinions on the outcome. However, when he had done a sharp-figured female delegate arose in the rear end of the room and asked: "How soon will we get our money?" He replied that the preliminary investigation would occupy five months. Beyond that every thing of necessity was conjecture.

The convention, after some discussion proceeded to business. The following was adopted:

***Resolved:* That in view of the eminently satisfactory, clear and definite statements and views of the various speakers at this convention of the Lawrence-Townley-Chase claimants, it is hereby resolved that in the opinion of this convention a united effort should be made at once, and once for all, to ascertain the position of the estate and moneys claimed by the Lawrence-Chase-Townley heirs.**

D. B. Richardson of Millington, attorney for a group of heirs in Tuscola County, offered the following which were also adopted:

***Resolved:* That the Officers of the Consolidated Lawrence-Townley Association of Toronto, be instructed to proceed immediately to a preliminary investigation of the Lawrence-Townley-Chase Estates in England, and establish First, is there such an estate to be inherited? Second, does the statute of limitations bar the claimants in America and England from obtaining said estate?**

***Resolved:* That the expense of the said investigation be borne by voluntary contribution from all claimants in the United States and Canada, said contribution to be collected before said investigation is commenced and as soon as possible.**

Mrs. L. E. Welton of Grand Rapids, (Michigan), supported by N. L. Eaton of Cleveland, (Ohio) offered the following:

***Resolved:* That in order to carry out the spirit of the resolution just passed, this meeting pledges itself through the various associations and parties interested to raise a sum of money not exceeding \$5,000 at once in order to make the necessary**

investigation and procure from sources in England a report on the question of the position of these estates.

This was adopted unanimously and followed by one designating S. H. Blake as the person to carry on the investigation. He expressed thanks.

Considerable money and a number of pledges were raised in the audience. The Bellevue Association delegates announced that they had raised \$500 which they were ready to contribute.

President Lawrence of the Michigan Association was named as the person through whom the local funds should pass as Treasurer to the proper parties at Toronto. Adjourned sine die.

Last evening there was an informal meeting at the Antisdel House parlora at which miscellaneous matters were discussed. Among other things, Secretary Stewart presented London solicitors opinions to the effect that the case of the Lawrence-Townley claimants was a good one and, if their pedigree is all right, they should have no difficulty in obtaining the estates, for the late act was for the express object of permitting the deviation from the laws of inheritance and rendering a division feasible.

It plainly appears that persons not the direct heirs of Mary Townley, the whom the property, or a large portion of it, descends by wills, settlements, etc., but descendants of uncles, aunts, cousins, and what-not, are receiving part of the income in the absence of true heirs. There was some discussion as to division in the event of winning the fabled millions. It was generally conceded that the division should be that if any of the lines of the heirs won the Estate, all who could prove relationship, whether in the direct line or not, should share equally. This manner of proposition will probably finally be drawn up and signed by the officers of the principle and auxiliary associations

At a late hour, the "heirs" separated and the international convention was over. Edgar Weeks, the original attorney of the Michigan association, gives the proceedings of the convention his approval. He says it is an intelligent way to go at the problem. Mr. Weeks sat in the body of the hall yesterday and put in a great deal of time pouring over the voluminous Townley act.

Colonel E. H. Sellers sat in the convention as attorney of some Detroit heirs.

The three Canadian trustees who have been deputed to report on the bearings of the property in question, are among the front rank of Canadian citizens. S. H. Blake is an ex-vice Chancellor of Ontario and head of one of the most prominent legal firms in the Province. Erastus Wyman is a wealthy Canadian who made his fortune in New York. He is a Director of the Western Union Telegraph Company and President of the Great Northwestern Telegraph Company of Canada. W. H. Howland is mayor of Toronto, Ontario.

475 Kings St. West Toronto, Canada
August 26th 1885

M (Exiter)

My Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find for your perusal a compended repast of the property (thereby) find issue of the Lawrence-Townley Estate most joyful () to all legal heirs and probably terminating a knotty uestion that hs caused many of the heirs to uselessly spend thousnads of dollars, besides agitating the publick mind in the United States and Canada for nearly half a century. Hoping you will give it your sincere attention and unite with us as a family in assisting to find out all that are heirs, or that are interested in the matter by publishing what you may deem important in this document (foregoing section) and send me a copy. I will file it away and use my best efforts and influence to see that you will not be forgotten and well paid for your trouble. Our family holds a Bills register, with the continent documents and are reaching back for over 200 years that have been of vital importance to all of the heirs in attaining this enormous estate, now reaching nearly 800,000,000 dollars and covering an area of 40,000 acres of valuable land in England For our benefit, certain heirs in England have united with us among whom is a number of the ("habitily") and have succeeded in getting a bill passed through the House of Commons for the division of this vast estate to all of the heirs of both lines, the Elizabeth Townley and Mary Townley, as the bill makes ample provision for the whole Townley Estate, therein the necessity of getting together the names of all the heirs and copies of their ancestry. All doing so, we can send them, without pause, a copy of the real state of the case up to the present time and all information possible to give (on both lines). Our family commenced to investigate this matter, through one of the family (Mr. Fenner Fuerguson in 1848 and continuing it to 1858 when he died of brain fever at Washington in his 2nd term as United States senator from Nebraska, than all preceding studied lines. Since then members of our family have received a number of letters for coppies of our famous Thomas Lawrence bible registry, (a copy of which I send you) and other family records as documents, but they were never sent until five months ago. I took hold of the matter in the behest of our family here and in the United States as well as the Northcotes and Vinens (other branches) in England when the paper kindly gave an account of the details of our Bible register and called it the connecting link that would enable all LawrenceTownley heirs (of both lines) to get their claims. It was copied in a short time all over the states and in Canada and brought in much valuable information which has seemed to verify their prediction. As our work, in connection with the British heirs has done more than has been accomplished for 40 years and brought the Lawrence-Townley matter into a general investigation with all of the heirs, both of the English Townley who married Sir Robert Lwrence, ninth in the line of heirs, and Mary Townley who married John Lawrence (as the bill just passed) has dealt equally with both lines and both estates. The schedule of the bill covers over 200 pages and designates the minutest details of the property. This is the only copy sent to your city hoping this manuscript will receive your sincere attention and valuable assistance- I remain with kind regards Faithfully yours,

William Northcote Gears
475 Kings St.. Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**SUCCESSION TO THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE
IN ENGLAND; LORD W. WIDDRINGTONS ESTATE IN
NORTHUMBERLAND, WILLED TO HIS CHILD, MARY
WIDDRINGTON.**

Mary Widdrington married 1665.
Estate by will and marriage settlement
She willed to daughters Mary and
Dorothy Townley born Townley
(Infant died 1667)
John Townley born 1669 had no
children survived. The estate
reverted to Mary and Dorothy.
John Townley died 1713. He
married Joan Standish in 1695,
heir to the Standish Estate willed
to her by Deed in 1708 by her
husband.

Sir Richard Townley of Townley Hall
Will proved October 10, 1735- Sir
Richard died, 1735. Four children were
born, John, William, Mary and Dorothy
Townley.

Mary Townley, born	Came to America	Dortha
1672 uniting with the	in 1713 lived in	married Henry
family Widdrington,	Boston, Halifax,	Howard of
Standish-Howard	and Walpole, MA.	Cork Costee
Estate after the death	Died in 1743	willed to his
of John Townley in	Dortha Townley	wife. Died
1718. Mary died in	born in 1673	1704.
1743. Mary Townley	Willed to her	
married John Law-	sister Mary and	
rence of Ashton Hall	her heirs for ---	
1693.	Died 1742	

Now the writer goes on to say:

By the above you will see that a large part of the Townley Estate through death and failure of issue wills have all come down to the heirs and descendants of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, married at The Hague in Holland in 1693 (note explanation of above.) The Von Tempest Estate came into the hands of Lord Widdrington, the most () in England, comprising extensive properties at Stella Blaton; Winboitan and Stanley in the county of Lancashire () and Durham, their value being enormous. It is now under the care of the Marquis of Londonderry for the government. Lord Widdrington of Northumberland County, England died possessed of the family estate, Widdrington Parish and also large properties in Durham, Lancashire and York counties called then as now, the Von Tempest Estate. They were held for some centuries (and during the reign of the Stuarts by the Tempest family. One of the Miss Tempests who was sole heir to this property married Lord Widdrington and Their only child Mary Widdrington married in 1665, Sir Richard Townley (see above) of Townley Hall. Thus the property all came into the Townley family of Lancashire county.

Family

Name

Married

Name

Family	Name	Married	Name
1.	Sir Robert Lawrence	1298	Anna De Trafford
2.	James Lawrence	1321	Matilda De Washington
3.	John Lawrence	1347	Margaret Chesford
4.	John Lawrence	1378	Elizabeth Holden
5.	Robert Lawrence	1408	Jane Winthrop
6.	John Lawrence	1436	----- Morgain *
7.	Robert Lawrence	1459	Jane -----
8.	John Lawrence	1480	Sarah Baldwin
9.	Robert Lawrence	1504	Elizabeth Townley
10.	John Lawrence	1532	Mariah Bradford
11.	John Lawrence	1559	Jane Eliott *
12.	John Lawrence	1580	Agnes Bourant *
13.	Robert Lawrence	1606	Margret Poster *
14.	John Lawrence	1629	Jane Canger *
15.	John Lawrence	1651	Anne Gandate *
16.	John Lawrence	1672	Mary Banard *
17.	John Lawrence	1693	Mary Townly

The DeTrafford family, whose daughter Anna married the first lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence n 1298 was another old family like the Standish, Townly and (Gerard). The Elizabeth Townly that married the ninth lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence (See line of Lawrences) and the Mary Lawrence Townly, the 17th lineal heir are the to distinct Estates (the writer) says.

I have proof that their was (30,000,000) of this vast Townly Estate awarded by will to the Elizabeth Townly who married Sir Robert Lawrence, 9th line of heirs and ws never paid and this large amount since 1504 hs now increased to a vast fortune, an account of which with our friends and heirs in England we have got read for the 3rd time on the 4th of this month, before the close of the English Parliament, which has now become a law. It (the Bill) has a clause and makes ample provision for the payment to the heirs as fast as their claims are proved of both estates, then all will see the neccessity of sending in with as little delay as possible theier names and addresses with copies of all information, facts, and proof they possess and ll on both lines with as little delay as possible, will get free and without charge a full understanding of the Townley Estate and matters up to the present date. This act, Mr. Morgan, the principal Clerk of Privet bills of the House of Commons, England writes that the bill was read on 8:00 time on the 4th of the month without a word of comment and became law. It contains a "saving clause" for the protection of all legal heirs of both Estates who may eventually turn up. Over 200 pages are occupied with the schedule of the property and record the minutest details. I am receiving letters almost every day from England and sent 30 pages of fcts and matter 3 months ago to the English heirs. Therefore I am quite considerably party with the schedules of the Bill already. But the Clerk of the House of Commons has been kind enough to send me a printed copy of the Bill which will soon be here for the free use of all who wish to see it. A few extracts from a letter received on the 18th of this month from one of the heirs in England, a Reverend Vinen of Bath, England, a Chaplain

Minister. He says "this Bill is a document of the estate important to us all bearing out what you allude to in the first portion of the paper you have been good enough to send us. The matter of such great consequence that I think it only due to you that the earliest possible information should be dispatched hom. My writing by this mail in order to catch it (). Now do more than give you a brief outline for the time of July 28th. We read that one Townley Estate Bill was read a 2nd time and that day in the House of Commons without a word of comment and that since on the 4th instant it was read the 8th in the same way and has become a law. The bill deals with the whole Townley property both estate and the schedule, in minutest detail, covering over 200 pages. Mrs. Stella Ryton Wesburton and Stanley as in your paper, the act distinctly shows us the information and high value of the information you have given us. I am now all the more desirous to see the remaining documents as it is likewise clear to me that our action in the matter must be mutual. You need copy of the act. One shall await your arrival at our office in London, England. The Exact title is as follows, this:

This, an act for (carrying) into effect the division of certain hereditament known as the Townley Estates in the Forest of Bowland, same counties as the Stiller and Stanley in the county of Durham and for other purposes 48 and 49 () Session 1885 on Page 64 is this important clause- and it was declared that on and from the first day of July, 1881, the said three daughters of the said () Townley and those claims under them, were to be () entitled to the Mansion House park and lands of Townley and the hereditaments in the counties of Lancashire and York, known and comprehended under the general designation of the Townley Estate and the following the Bowland and Stella Estates and to our family is related to the Earl of Goldsleigh or Sir Stafford Northcote, and their family comes in equally with us in this Townley Estate, who is on his way to Canada. Now he has no doubt been the prime mover in placing this matter in the possible position it is now. There is not the least doubt that as members of Nobility in England, being interested, has done more in placing matters in favorable position it is at present, than all the combined force of the remaining heirs could have done, the bill has dealt a death blow to all () those who have squandered others money and then returned and circulated all kinds of false reports and all infamous lies there has been one of the most stupendous frauds () upon the heirs in Canada and the United States that has ever been perpetrated upon an educated and intelligent people. Some () coming back and saying that they had found that there was no such estate or fortune in England, and putting out books and selling them to that effect. For some years it has been thought that there was an undercurrent at work to effect all of this and now facts are coming to light to strongly reduce grave fears that those in charge of these estates are the government have been robbing the heirs of millions using the fund in buying off those sent to investigate the case and paying them for concealing these documents to the extent that no doubt the heirs will call upon the government for an investigation. The act will be a consolation to all true heirs. They will feel they are now on the right track and free from England's more villany.

Children of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, Register of Marriage.
Kirk (Church) The Hague in Holland 1693

John and Jonathan, twin boys were born on the ship Highflyer,
1698

Mary Townley was baptized at Corby Castle Parish Church, Witherall.
This was Mary Townley's home church record, 1685. Born in The Hague,
Holland January 23, 1687, recorded in the Kirk.

John Lawrence, Walpole, Ma. married at age 16.

Twins Died September 18th, 1697, Kirk, The Hague, death page 166

Thomas Lawrence Born August 23, 1703, married Mary Northcote
October 6th, 1725 Mary Northcote was born October 3, 1701.

William Lawrence, born August 23, 1714, Boston, MA. Recorded in
Kings Chapel.

(The writer says) "From some records I have, they lived mainly, if not all
the time from 1697 - 1713 at the Hague, Holland at which time thair is a record that they
sailed in the autumn of 1713 from London and landed in Plymouth, MA. There it seems
they went almost immediately to Halifax, Nova Scotia where they soon left to come to
Boston wheir they resided in 1714. Between 1697 and 1714 are 16 years which beside
our Thomas Lawrence in th () register. We expect to find several children, Richard,
Joseph and a Levi and on the Elizabeth Townley line, it seems we shall find a Levi,
Nthaniel and on both lines of the Townley estate aremoving and connected with the
nobility in England

Letter of Reverend F. N. Vinen

January 20th, 1885.

Dear Sir:

Your important letter addressed to Dr. J. H. Vinen has just been forwarded to me
for perusal. If I rightly understand Dr. J. H. Vinen's answer, he appears to have forgotten
particulars of the relationship which exists between your family and ours. I have known
thereare others of my family for many years. What you say for some time I have with
others interested members of our family been investigating the matter and we have
proved without doubt that we, as well as your family are direct heirs to the John Lawrence
and Mary Townley who was married in 1693. For some years past I have carefully
collected particulars of our pedigree with special reference to the Lawrence-Townley-
Northcote and other families. Consequently, if you will let me know the little evidence in
the matter that you would like me to look up in England, I may be able from my own
purpose to furnish you at once with this. Your comment that the whole matter might
easily and promptly be settled to the mutual advantage of both families. If you will send
me a copy of the famous Thomas Lawrence Bible expected as you so kindly promised
Dr. J. Vinen's pray so as you please wheaher this and all pappers be forwarded to him or
to me since we are equally concerned in the matter. On my part I shall be delighted to
send you every information I possess. I have long marveled why the matter was not
settled as it might have been in 1860. The Northcote Cote of Arms... **

- uncertain about the name and spelling- difficult handwriting- Blank parentheses indicate a non-readable word which probably would require someone with a knowledge of early writing styles to correctly read.

There are sections which do not seem to flow and I left the original spelling and sentence structure the way the author seemed to write.

** I leave the description of the Northcote Cote of Arms and Shield to those interested as I have also left the list of descendents uncopied. The Final note at the end of these epistles probably explains genetically why my own scrawling is difficult to read:

“Copied from documents received from the Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, formed and organized September 15 at the Michigan Exchange, Detroit, Michigan, by Porter J. Lawrence, Corresponding Committee.

Coppied November 20th, 1885

* uncertain about the name and spelling - difficult handwriting - blank parentheses indicate a non-readable word which probably would require someone with a knowledge of early writing styles to correctly read.

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Copied from documents received from the Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, formed and organized September 13 at the Michigan Exchange, Detroit, Michigan, by Peter J. Lawrence, Corresponding Committee.
Copied November 20th, 1885

(1)

475 Kings St West Toronto

Mr Epitio

Aug^r, 26th 1885

My Dear Sir

Enclosed please find for

your perusal a condensed report of the progress
& nearly final issue of the Lawrence-Johns Estate
Concerning most joyful intelligence to all legal
heirs & probably terminating a knotty question that
has caused many of the heirs to uselessly spend
thousands of dollars; besides agitating the public
mind in the United States and Canada for
nearly half a century Hoping you will give
it your sincere attention & unite with us

A family, in assisting to find out all that
are heirs, or that are interested in the matter By
Publishing what you may deem important in
this document (for your section) & send me a
copy of I will file it away & use my Best Efforts
& influence to see that you will not be forgotten
& well Paged for your trouble our Family holds a
Bill register, with & Antient documents & reaching
Back for Over 200 years that has been of vital
importance to all of the heirs in obtaining this
Enormous Estate (Now reaching nearly 800,000,000)
& covering an area of 40,000 acres of valuable land
in England, for our benefit certain heirs in England
have united with us among whom is a number
of the Nobility & have succeeded in getting a Bill passed
through the House of Commons for the

(2)

Devision of this vast Estate to all of the heirs of Both
Lines, the Elisabeth Townley & Mary Townley as the Bill
makes ample provision for the whole Townley
Estate Hence the necessity of getting together the
Names of all the heirs & Copies of their Ancestors
all deeds so we can send them (without delay)
A Copy of the Real State of the Case up to the
Present time & all information possible to give
(an both Lines) our family commenced to
Investigate this matter, though one of the
family (Mr Fenner Ferguson in 1848 continuing
it until 1858 when he died of Brain fever
at Washington in his 2th term as united
States Servicy for Nebraska then all Proceeding
Stopped Since then members of our family has

See, & samples of letters for Copies of our famous
Thomas Lawrence Bible registers (a Copy of
which I send you) & other family record or
documents; But they were sent untill five
months ago, I took hold of the matter in the
interest of our family here & in the united
States as well as the Northcotts & Womens (at the
Branches) in England when the Pappes kind-
ly gave an account of the details of our Bible
registers & called it the Connecting link that
would enable all Lawrence Lowndes heirs
(of both lines) to get their Claims it was
copied in a short time all over the States and
Canada & brought in much valuable information
which has seemed to verify their Predictions
as our work in Connection with the English heirs

(3)

has done more than has been accomplished
for 40 years & brought the Lawrence Townly
matter into a general investigation with
all the heirs both of the English Townly
who married Lie Robert Lawrence; & the
line of heirs & Mary Townly who married John
Lawrence (as the Bill just passed) has dealt equally
with both lines & both estates the schedule of
the Bill covers over 200 pages & designates the
minutest details of the property; This is the only
copy sent ^{to} your City hoping this manuscript
will receive your sincere attention & valuable
assistance & remain with kind regards Faith-
fully yours, William Northcote care Address
475 Kings St. Toronto Ontario Canada

Succession To
 Lawrence Townly Estate: in England,
 Lord, ~~the~~ Widdingtons Estate in ~~W~~ Cumberland^B
 Willed to his Child Mary Widdington

Mary Widdington married 1665
 Estate by Will & Marriage Settlement
 She willed to Daughter Mary &
 Dortha Townly Born Townly
 (Infant) died 1667

John Townly Born 1669 & 80 Chel
 When Surved the Estate reverted
 to Mary & Dortha John Townly
 Died 1713 he married Joan
 Standish in 1695 This to the Standish
 Estate willed to her By her Husband
 Died 1708

Sir Richard Townly of Taunty Hall
 Will Proved Oct. 10th 1735

Died — — — — 1735
 4 Children Born John &

Mrs Mary & Dortha Townly

Mary Townly Came to America
 Born 1672 in 1718 lived
 uniting the in Boston
 Family holding to Halifax, Mass.
 Standish Howard died
 Estate after the in 1743
 death of John Dortha Townly
 Townly in 1713 Born 1678
 married died 1743 willed to her
 Mary Townly sister Mary
 married John & her heirs
 Lawrence of Ashton for ever & ever
 Hall 1698 1742

Dortha married
 Henry Howard
 of Carly Postle
 Willed to his
 Wife died

1704

(4)

from the writer goes on to say
By the above you will see that a large part of
the Lawley Estate through death & failure of issue
with ye has all come down to the heirs &
descendants of John Lawrence & Mary Lowley married at
Hague in Holland in 1688 Note Explanation (of above the
van Tempest Estate came into the hands of Lord ~~the~~ Midd
-ton) the most valuable in England; comprising the extensive
mining properties at Hella, Blaton, Winboiton &
Stanly in the County of Lancashire; York & Durham,
their value being enormous It is now under the
Care of the Marguis of Landenbury per the gov-
ernment Lord Middington of Northumberland
Co Eng^d died possessed of the family Estate Middington
Parish & also large properties in Durham, Lancashire
& York Co Called them as above the van, Tempest

Estate they were held for some Centuries (and
 During the reign of the Stuarts By the Tempest fam-
 -ily, one of the Miss Tempest who was sold his to this Prop-
 -erty married Lord Widdrington & their only Child Mary
Widdrington married in 1665 Sir Richard Townly
 (See above) of Townly Hall Thus the Property all
 came into the Townly family of Lancashire CO

Lawley	1	Sir Robert, Lawrence	married 1294	Anna De Treppard
"	2	James, Lawrence	1321	Matilda, Washington
"	3	John, Lawrence	1344	Margaret, Chesford
"	4	John, Lawrence	1345	Elizabeth, Holden
"	5	Robert, Lawrence	1408	Jane Widdrington Widdrington
"	6	John, Lawrence	1436	Margaret
"	7	Robert, Lawrence	1458	Jane
"	8	John, Lawrence	1450	Sarah Baldwin
"	9	Robert, Lawrence	1504	Elizabeth Townly
"	10	John, Lawrence	1532	Margaret Broadford
"	11	John, Lawrence	1558	Jane, Elliott
"	12	John, Lawrence	1580	Agnes, Bowant
"	13	Robert, Lawrence	1606	Margaret Betty
"	14	John, Lawrence	1629	Jane, Carter
"	15	"	1651	Anne, Sandolot
"	16	"	1672	Mary, Banard
"	17	"	1693	Mary, Townly

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The De Trefford family; whose daughter Anne
married the first lineal heir, Sir Robert Lawrence
in 1298 was another old family like the Stangers
Lowny & Gerard The Elizabeth Lowny that married
the 9th lineal heir Sir Robert Lawrence (see line
of Lawrence) and the Mary Lawrence Lowny the
17th lineal heir are two distinct Estates (the writer)
Says, I have proof that this was (30,000,000 of this
last Lowny Estate awarded By will to the Elizabeth
Lowny who married Sir Robert Lawrence 9th line
of heirs & warden paid & this large amount seen
1504 has now increased to a vast fortune on
act which with our friends & heirs in England

we have got read the 3rd time on the 4th of this
month, Before the Close of the Eng^l Parliament
which has now become a law, has a Saving Clause
& makes ample Provision for the Payment to
the heirs as fast as their Claims are Proved of
Both Estates, Hence all will see the necessity of sending
in with as little delay as possible their names & addresses
with Copies of all information, ~~proofs & addresses,~~
~~proofs they possess & all on Both~~ Sines with as
little Delay as possible, will get freed without charge
& full understanding of the Towns Estate & matters
up to Present date, This Act Mr Marquis the
Principal Clerk of Great Bills of the house of Com-
mons Eng^l writes that the Bill was read a 8th time
on the 4th of the month without a word of Com-
ment & Became Law it Contains a Saving

(6)

show for the protection of all Legal heirs of Bath's
Estate who may ~~turn~~ eventually turn up, One 200
Pages are occupied with the Schedule of the
property & record the minutest details. I am
receiving letters almost Every day from England
& sent 30 Pages of facts & matters 3 months ago to the
English heirs; Theirs are quite Considerably Partly
with the Schedules of the Bill already, But the Clerk
of the house of Commons has been kind Enough to
Send me a Printed Copy of the Bill which
will soon be here for the free use of all who
wish to see it; A few Extracts from a letter Recd
on the 18th of this Month from one of the heirs in
England, a Messrs Triner of Bath Eng; a Chaplain
Minister he says This Bill is a Document of the Estate
important to us all bearing out what you alude

to in the first portion of the Pippys you have been good
Enough to send us of dear in the matter of such great
Consequence that I think, it only due to you that the
Earliest Possible information should be dispatched home
my writing by this mail in order to catch it if I can.
I do more than give you a Brief outline, for the time
of July 28th we read that our Lowly Estate Bill was read
a 2nd time & that day in the House of Commons without
a word of comment & that since on the 4th inst it
was read the 3rd in the same way & has passed. I saw
the Bill early with the whole Lowly Property Bill & Estate
& the schedule in the minutest details covering over 200
pages the Stella Hyton valuation & stably as in your
Pippys the Act. distinctly shows us the importance & high
value of the information you have given us I am doing
all the more desirous to see the remaining Document or
Pippies in your hands.

(7)

it is likewise clear to me that our action in the matter must be mutual, you send a copy of the Act, and shall await your arrival at your office in London Eng. The Exact Title is as follows Mis. An Act, for carrying into Effect the division of Certain hereditaments known as the Townly Estates in the Parish of Bowland same Counties as the Stebber & Standy & in the County of Durham & for other Purposes 48 & 49 Victoria - Session 1885 on Page 64 is this important Clause = And it was declared that on & from the first Day of July 1884 the said Owners of the said Chas. Townly and those Claims under them, were to be & were Entitled to the Mansion House Park & Land of Townly

& the hereditaments in the Counties of Lancaster
& York, known & comprehended under the general
Designation of the Townly Estate & The following the
Bosland & Stella Estates & Co our family is related
to the Earl of Jaldsligh or Lis Stiffard Northgate & their
family comes in Equally with us in their ^{family} Estate who is on the
way to Canada & so on. He has no doubt been the Prime
Mover in placing this matter in the favorable Position
it is now. There is not the least doubt that some member
of Nobility in Eng^l being interested has done more in
placing matter in the favorable Position it is at present
than all the combined force of the remaining heirs could
have done, the Bill has dealt a Death Blow to all
slandering those who have squandered other money
& then returned & circulated all kind of false reports
& all infamous Lies. Their loss has been one of the most ^{disgraceful} stupen

(8)

frauds Perpetrated upon the heirs in Canada & the
united States that ^{has} Ever Been Perpetrated upon an
Educated & intelligent People, some even coming
back & saying that they had found that this was
as much Estote as partum in Eng^l & putting out books
& selling them to that Effect, for some gives it has
Been thought that this was an under current at
work to Effect all this, & now facts are coming to
light to strongly produce grave fears that those
in charge of these Estotes for the government have
Been robbing the heirs of millions using the funds
in buying off those sent to investigate the case
& paying them for canceling there documents to the
Extent that I doubt the heirs will call upon
the government for an investigation, The Act, will
Be a consolation to all true heirs they will feel
they are now on the right track & free from Eng

more willing

Children of John Lawrence & Mary Lawley Regerts of
marriage: Kirk, Hague, in Holland 1698

John & Jonathan (Twins) Born on Ship Highflyer 1698

Baptized at- Long Coeter Parish Church W. Merall
This was Mary Lawley born Church Record 1695 Hague
(Born Hague Holland Jan., 23rd 1697 recorded Kirk

John Lawrence {Died Walbrook Mass., aged 16 years
(Twins) Dec. 18th {Recorded Kirk Hague} 1697 {Death Page 166}

Thomas Lawrence Born Aug., 23rd 1708 married Mary Northeote
Oct 6th 1725 She was Born Oct. 9 1701

Mary Lawrence Born Aug. 23 - 1714 Boston Mass.,

Recorded Kings Chapel

The writer says from some records I have they lived nearly if not
all of the time from 1697 to 1713 at Hague Holland at
which time there is records that they sailed
in the autumn of 1713 from London & Landesh

(9)

in Plymouth Mass. thair it seems they
went almost immediately to Halifax Nov Scotia
where they soon left & came to Boston where
they resided in ~~1714~~ 1714 between 1697 & 1714 are
16 years which period our Thomas Lawrence in the
above register we expect to find several children
Richard Joseph & a Levi & on the Elisabeth Townly
line it seems we shall find a Levi Nathaniel
& on both lines of the Townly Settle are moving
& connected with the Habitat in Eng.

Letter of Rev. J. H. Wines

Jan. 20th 1885 Dear Sir your important letter

Addressed Dr J A Winemans has just been forwarded
to me for perusal & I rightly understand
Dr J A Winemans answer he appears to have forgotten
Particulars of the relationship which exists between
your family & ours I have known these like
other of my family for many years, what your
Says for some time I have with other interested
members of our family been investigating the
matter & we have without doubt that we as
well as your family are direct heirs to the John
Lawrence & Mary Lowry who was married in 1683
For some years past I have carefully collected
Particulars of our Pedigree with special reference
to the Lawrence Lowry & Hartwate & other families,
Consequently if you will let me know the little
Evidence in the matter that you would like us to
look up in Eng. I may be able from my own papers.

(10)

16

to furnish you at once with this, I am convinced
that the whole matter might easily & promptly
be settled to the mutual advantage of both
Parties, if you will send me a copy of the
Famous Thomas Lawrence Bible society as you
so kindly promised Dr J. C. Lawrence may do
as you please whether this & all papers be
forwarded to him or to me I am sure we are
equally concerned in the matter, on my part
I shall be delighted to send you any information
I possess I have long marvelled why the matter
was not settled as it might have been
in 1860 The Northcott Gate of Arms is now
combined quartered with the Stafford—
you may like to know that two days the queen
made Sir Stafford Northcott the Earl of

Goldersleigh & Co's "Count St. Evans Jones
Faithfully Rev., Frederick, A. H. Viner

P.S. the Hartmeate Shield is this proper Should
Blow her
Heraldic colours are - Cross Corset Black,
upon a Silver Shield the Hartmeate & Stopper
arms were combined when Sir Henry Sartwell
M.P. ¹⁸⁴¹ Baronet married Bridget Mariot only
Daughter & heir of Hugh Sharford he died in 1743
Aged 38 I shall be glad to send you the same
arms Crest & motto if you would like to have
the address Rev. Frederick A. H. Viner, England

(11)

Published 1673

Mary & her Bible register of
Thomas Lawrence and Mary Garthwaite

Born - Oct. 3rd 1701

Thomas & Born Aug. 23rd 1703

Thomas & Married Oct. 6th 1725

Mary & Born Jan. 6th a delach in the morning on Friday 1727

Betty & " on Friday 1 O'clock PM July 16th 1728

Died March 8th 1728 on Saturday just after 4 O'clock
Buried 14th Friday

Thomas & Born Jan 15th on Tuesday at 9 O'clock in the morning 1730

Samuel " June 12th on Saturday Between 6 & 7 1732

Mary " Died Jan. 29th 1733 on ~~Thursday~~ ^{Saturday} the 1st on

Wednesday at 3 o'clock in the afternoon Buried
Thursday the 1st day of February aged six years & Eight
Days old Born May 8th Between 9 & 10 o'clock

Wednesday 1734

Anna + Born May 25th Between 4 & 5 O'clock in the morning 1736

Maria + " July 25th on Saturday Between 9 & 11 O'clock 1741

Thomas + Died Sept^r 6th about noon 1765

Aged 62 years

Mary + Died Dec^r 16 1772

Aged 72 years

Copied from Documents Rec^d from
the Sec^y of Lawrence Townly association
Formed an Organized Septem^r 15 at the
Michigan Exchange Detroit Michigan
By P^r Lawrence Responding Committee

Copied Nov^r 20th 1885

Oxford Oct 21 1885

Mr D. J. Lawrence
Winnebago

Dear Uncle

You wished me to keep you posted and I think I am right on the post so here goes. I wrote Mrs Morgan of Bennington and she wrote me that her Grand mother was a daughter of Jonathan L and I received a mother's letter from Mrs Bigelow that this Mary was her grand father's sister to day I received a second letter from Mrs Morgan with the following records from Norwich enclosed (I send you a copy)

Record from Norwich

1st book page 10 Isaac Lawrence married Susannah Reed 1708

Samuel L. ^{Children} born Nov 29 - 1710

Hannah L. " Mar 18 - 1711 1/2

Deborah L. " May 6 - 1714

Jonathan died May 21 - 1733 (no record of his wife given in this)

1st book page 72 Isaac L. Sen died April 19 - 1733 born 1660

Jonathan L. Mar Oct 29 - 1733 Mary Jackson

Book page 241 Dr Jonathan L. Mar Oct 29 1739 Irish Cemetery
(over)

Children (2)

Ruben L. born June 22nd - 1760
Lydia " " Jan 15th - 1762
Joanna " " May 31 - 1765

2nd book page 273

Josiah Lawrence married March 18/1761

Children Mary born Dec 19th - 1761

Jonah " Nov 29 - 1763

Lucy " Apr 23 - 1765

2nd book page 311

Samuel L. married Thankfull Cady Nov 29th 1766

Children Solomon L. born Sept 14 - 1767

2nd book page 363 Hannah L. married Samuel Palmer 1763

1st book page 174

Samuel L. + wife Mary

Children Josiah L. born Aug 18 - 1734

Jonathan L. " Apr 19th - 1736

Samuel L. " Jan 5th - 1738

Mary L. " Apr 18th - 1741

Hannah L. " July 23rd - 1743

John L. " Feb 19th - 1745

Deborah L. " Jan 23rd - 1747

Anne L. " Dec 2nd - 1754

Susanna L. " Feb 8th - 1757

2nd book page 2 Hannah L. Mar David Palmer Feb 28-1740
 3rd book " 236 Mary L. " Samuel Safford Sep 23-1760
 2nd " " 270 Mary L. " John Safford Aug 13-1760
 1st book " 48 Abigail L. " Wm Walbridge July 27-1713

Now what do you think. (I know what you think you think damn) here to, there must have been some
 records in the Lawrence family by the looks of the
 record enclosed. Mrs Morgan wrote that a John L. living
 there called and said that his grand father was the eldest
 son Josiah and he knew that his great Grand father was
 Jonathan L. so I am going to write him and see if I
 can not get some more records of the family (if I will
 send them to you) will close as it is most midnight
 write for I am most dead to hear from some one
 Good night
 O. Lawrence

PS

Where is your John L born in 1801
 0212

Fort _____ September 22, 1885

Mr. P.J. Lawrence

Dear Sir:

Your much welcomed letter in hand. I agree with you regarding that we should all work together in trying to establish our claim in this matter. But at the same time, why not make a right start and then finance the search step by step and if it proves there is anything to get we shall all the more be likely be successful.

But I can't say I am in accord with that meeting you held. Even the papers are making a laughing stock of it, the way they came together and the way the meeting was conducted. What did the meeting accomplish? Nothing at all. You did not seem to know who called the meeting. In one word, they really had nothing of any bottom to work on after the meeting had met.

There can be nothing done in the Lawrence/Townley question till after we see a bonafide copy of this act, and ascertain the line of descent it calls for and just actually what it says. There is a right step (that) will be taken. But I don't propose, and there is a great many others who say the same, to connect with any organization, unless established on sound footing. Your secretary, a Mr. Peltow writes me that he has the whole history of the act and does not (require) me for any further information. On that point in fact quite ignores anything or anybody else in the matter. Now I venture to say that he has never seen one iota of this act, only what that man Geare of Toronto has told him or Geare's uncle Dr. Upjohn of Hastings, Michigan, who was sent there by this Geare, thinking it was our meeting so he could report to Toronto.

To prove you this and the way Geare of Toronto is deceiving heirs, he, Geare, had (mentioned) in the Toronto Evening News that a copy of the act was on view at his office in Toronto. 2nd, that the Honorable Northcote was in this country purposely to consult with him. When I was in Toronto, this Honorable Northcote was there and left again without going near him. Furthermore, there had no such copy been received from England. You see how much is to be relied on him.

I have got our members of congress to write to W. S. Miuster(sp) for a copy. When that comes, if there proves (to be) any such thing, then we are going to have a large meeting, 150 expected and more from different points and states. Then something in a tangible form will be done to push the thing through.

We don't intend to recognize any other previous meeting if they don't intend to come and fall into line. They can suit themselves about that. There have been too many of these meetings held in the past and nothing accomplished- so we intend to make a right start now.

Respectfully yours,

D. E. Harras

Port Gratot Sep 22/85

Mr J J Lawrence

Dear Sir

Your much welcomed
 letter to hand. I agree with
 you regarding that we should
 all work together in trying to
 establish our claim in this matter.
 But at the same time, why not
 make a right start and then
 pursue the search step by step
 and if it proves there is anything
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 the way they came together
 and the way the meeting
 was conducted. What did
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seem to know who called
the meeting, in one word
they really had nothing of
any bottom to work on after
the meeting had met -

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done in the Lomax case
question till after we see
a bona-fide copy of this Act.
and ascertain the line of
descent it calls for, and
just actually what it says.
Then a right step will be
taken, but I don't propose
and there is a great many others
who say the same to connect
with any organization, unless
established on sound footing.

"Yours Secy" a Mr Pelton wrote
me, in answer to mine
that he has the whole history
of the Act, and does not think
me for any further information
on that point, in fact quite

ignores anything or anybody else
in the matter. Now I venture
to say that he has never seen
any note of this act, only what
that man Gene of Toronto
has told him or Gene's uncle
or nephew of Hastings Mich,
who was sent there by the
Gene thinking it was our
meeting. so he could report
to Toronto.

To prove you this and the way
Gene of Toronto is deceiving
him. The Gene had misread
in Toronto saying now that
a copy of the Act was on view
at his Office in Toronto. 2d -
that the Hon Northeatte was in
this Country purposely to consult
with him. Now I was in
Toronto the Hon Northeatte was
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saying more than. Furthermore
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received from England.

You see how much is to be
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I have got our Member
of Congress to write to the
Minister ^{London} for a copy, when that
comes, if there proves any
such thing, then we are going
to have a large meeting
150 is expected or more from
different points and states,
then something in a tangible
form will be done to push
the thing through =

We don't intend
to recognize any other previous
meeting, if they don't intend
to come ~~or~~ fall into line,
they can suit themselves
about that = There has been
too many of these meetings
held in the past and nothing
accomplished = So we intend
to make a right start now

Respectfully Yours
L. C. Harral

Owasso, Michigan
September 25, 1895

Mr. P. J. Lawrence, Sir

I saw a notice in the Detroit Evening Journal with regard to Michigan claimants to an English Estate, "from an Inquiry Association" and I address you sir, as Secretary of that Association. With regard to the heirs of the Lawrence family, to which I claim relationship. My mother, was Hannah Lawrence, daughter of Samuel and Rhoda Lawrence who resided at "South Salem", Westchester County, New York, about the year 1775 and later. Their children were sons 4, daughters, 5 I think.

Samuel Lawrence Jr.

Mynor Lawrence

Joel Lawrence

Benedict Lawrence

Daughters

Rhoda Lawrence

Elizabeth Lawrence

Molly Lawrence

Hannah Lawrence (my mother)

Mary Lawrence

Hannah Lawrence was married to Daniel Wilson Jr., son of Daniel Wilson Sr. My father moved to Verona, Oneida Co. New York about the year 1778. Subsequently he moved to Covington, Genesee County, New York. Their children were:

Betsy Mariah Wilson (died)

Samuel Lawrence Wilson (died)

Laura N. Wilson (died)

Ruth Wilson

Thomas Wilson

Ammon Wilson

Rhoda A. Wilson

Sarah A. Wilson.

Betsy Maria married Erastus Prentice, had one son, William.

Samuel Lawrence married Sebrina Shaw, Had two sons and one daughter

Laura died at 24 years, single

Ruth married Ami Chipman has 4 children, one son George and three daughters

Thomas Wilson married Mary E. Dodge, had 6 children, 4 living.

Ammon married 1st, Emily Whitlock, has one child, Elizabeth, both deceased, 2nd, married Elizabeth _____ of Stamford, Connecticut, has one son, Grant Wilson

Rhoda A. married Gideon Webb, had two sons, Thomas and Charles

Sarah A., married David Mason Fargo, they had eight children all living but one. They are:

David Mason Wilson Fargo
Laura Ann Fargo
George Francis (deceased)
Henry S. Fargo
Emily L. Fargo
Amelia A. Fargo
Ellen Fargo
Josephine Fargo
Frank F. Fargo

My brother, Thomas and sister Ruth are now living in Saranac, Michigan. Any further information wanted will be promptly responded to.

Please answer soon and oblige. Yours,

Sarah A. Fargo, Owasso Shiawassee County,

Michigan

OWOSSO, - - MICH.

Sept 25th 1895.

Mr P. H. Lawrence, - sir

I saw a notice, in the Detroit Evening Journal, with regard to Mich. Claimants, to an English estate, "From an Iny ^{ing} Association" And I address you, sir, as Secretary of that Association, with regard to the heirs of the Lawrence family, to which I claim relationship. My Mother, was Hannah Lawrence, Daughter

of Samuel, & Rhoda Lawrence
who resided at South Salem,
Westchester County, New York -
about the year 1775, or later -
Their children, were, sons, 4
Daughters, 5 I think.
Samuel, Lawrence jr.

Miguel, Lawrence,

Joel, Lawrence,

Benedict Lawrence,

Daughters,

Rhoda Lawrence,

Elizabeth Lawrence,

Molly Lawrence,

Annarah Lawrence - my Mother

Mary Lawrence

Hannah Lawrence, was married
to Daniel Wilson's son of
Daniel Wilson, Sr

My father moved to Verona One-
-an Co NY - about the year 1798

Subsequently. Moved to Covington
Genesee Co NY, Their children were

~~Samuel Lawrence, Wilson,~~

1st Betsey, Mariah, Wilson, - dead

2^d Samuel, Lawrence, Wilson "

3^d Laura, H. Wilson, "

4th Ruth, Wilson, - - -

5th Thomas, Wilson, - - -

6th Ammon, Wilson, "

7th Rhoda, A. Wilson, "

8th Sarah, A. Wilson, - - -

My Brother Thomas, our sister

Ruth are now living in Saranac
N.Y.

Any farther information
wanted will be promptly
responded to -

Please answer soon and

oblige Yours &c

Sarah A. Fargo
Oversor Shawasser Co
Miche

Betsy Maria, Married, Erasmus Prunick
had one son
William

Samuel, S. married, Sophia Shaw
had two sons & one
daughter

Sandra died at 24 single -

Beth, Married, Ami Chipman.
had children four living,
one son George, & three
daughters

Thomas, Wilson, married Mary, & Dodge.
had 6 children, 4 living

Annison, married 1st Emily, Whitlock
had 1 child both deceased, 2^d married
Elizabeth of Stanford Conn
had one son
Grant Wilson

Rhoda A. married, Sideon Webb.
had 2 sons,
Thomas & Charles.

Sarah A. Married.

David Mason Fargo -

they had eight children, all
living but one. they are -

David Wilson, Laura Ann, George, Francis
J. deceased

Henry S., Emily S., Amelia A. & Ellen
- Telephone - Frank J. Fargo

Olathe, Kansas November 6, 1885

Mr. E. Van Wie

In answer to yours of the 4th instant, I (have had interest) in the Townley estate (since) 1874 as Chase Agent. It is no mith (myth). Parliament has passed an act (august 4th) surrendering said estate to all legal heirs. The Lawrences have a no. 1 prospect. I have yet to make foreign legal connections for the Chases. I will go abroad for that purpose sometime in January. The genealogies of the Lawrences that I have are fragmentary but are good. Give me your genealogy back as far as you can with dates of birth, marriages and deaths and where they lived. The estate must be settled this time. Can you get your committee to unite and help us? The Bill has arrived in this country- 306 pages. (It) will be reprinted \$3.00 per copy.

J. M. Chase
Box 589

[Accompanying this note was a copy of the bill of parliament which has, as far as I can tell, disappeared. Perhaps it can be obtained from the records of parliament for August 4th, 1885]

RLJ

Ola the Kansas Nov. 6th 1885

Mr E. Van. Wie

In answer to yours of
the 4th instant of in Townley Estⁿ
1874 as Chace Agent it is so
with. Parliament has passed
an act (Aug-4th) ~~Lawrence~~ ^{Lawrence} said
Estate to all legal heirs. The Lawrence
have a 201 Prospect I have yet
to make for a Real Connection
for the Chace I will go abroad
for that purpose sometime in
Jan^y the genealogies of the Lawrence
that I have are fragmentary but
are good give me your genealogy
Back as far as you can with (sats)
of births marriages and Deaths and
where they live, the Estate must
be settled this time can you get
(over)

your Committee to unite and
help us Bill has arising in
this Country 306 Pages and
will be reprinted \$3.00 Per
Copy

J.M. Chase
Box 589

Copy of Bill
of Parliament

Monkton Ridge, Vermont
December 11, 1885

Mr. Lawrence- I received your letter yesterday and send this out today- I will give you my own birthplace, age, etc.

I was born in the town of Monkton, County of Addison and State of Vermont. I was May 18th, 1804. I am now 81 years and still smart as a young man- never had a sickness of any account. My grandfather was Josiah Lawrence- now he married widow Mary Branch of Norwich, Connecticut March 18- 1761.

He remained in Norwich a few years and moved into the town of Woodford, Vermont where he made a few years stop and then removed to Bennington where he remained during life. His children were as follows:

Mary, Josiah Jr., Lucy, Roger, Deborah, Diah, Juduh and Solomon.

Juduh died April 20, 1778.

My great grandfather Jonathan had a son John who settled on the Hudson at Fishkill but we know nothing about the children of this new marriage if he was married a second time.

Our grandfather Josiah was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, his youngest child- who after his mother's death was cared for by his sister Experience during his early life. My great grandfather Jonathan died in England or in Nova Scotia where the English government had given him a trust of land for service rendered in the French and Indian war.

Yours -----

Almon Lawrence

1
Monkton-Ridge

December 11-1883

Mr. Lawrence - I received
your letter yesterday & send
this out today - I will give
my own birthplace age &c.

I was born in the town of
Monkton, County of Addison
State of Vermont

I was born May 18-1804

I am now 81 years & still

smart as a young man - and
had a sickness of my account

My grandfather was Josiah

Lawrence - now born in Dan-

-ington New Hampshire

My Branch of Norwich Conn.

March 18-1761

He remained in N. as far
as I moved into the town
of Mactford N.H. where he
made a few years stop & then
removed to Farmington where
he remained during life
His children were no farther
Mary - Pasiech ^{or} Lucy - Roger
- Deborah - Dick - Frederick &
Salomon

Frederick died April 20-1778
My great grandfather Jonathan
had ~~Frederick~~ John who settled
on the Glendon at Bristol, but
we know that ~~he~~ ~~was~~
nothing about the children of
of this now marriage of the now
married a few time

Our grandfather Pasiech was
the son of Jonathan Lawrence
his youngest child - who after
his mother's death lived and
for by his sister Experiene
during his early life

My great grandfather
Jonathan died in England
as in Massachusetts when the
English government had
given him a tract of land
for services rendered in the
French & Indian war
He was for
thirteen years

The following is a letter written by Will Parsons to Porter J. Lawrence in regard to the possible heirship to the Lawrence/Townley Estates, dated November 8, 1885. Copies of the hand written letter have been made and I will include those copies in the information that has been accumulated. Any parenthetical remarks in the body of the letter are my comments which may clarify or personalize the word or statements.

RLJ

Cleveland, O. Nov. 8/85

Dear Uncle Porter,

I have not heard from you for some time, not since I wrote last. We expected a call from you this summer, and also that we should have another struggle with the fish in Lake Erie. We read an account of the meeting of the Lawrence/Townley heirs in Detroit, in a Detroit paper sent me by Mr. Harkness, a son of a Mr. Harkness who attended the meeting as one of the heirs. (copies of those reports appeared in the Detroit Free Press and are included in the information section. I believe they are self explanatory and dealt primarily with an organized way to approach the claim on heirship of the English property.)

A Mr. Jaques living in this town that I am well-acquainted recently returned from the East where he went to bury his mother who was a Lawrence and claimed to be one of the heirs. He has frequently, he tells me, within the last few months written her to get what information he could in relation to her genealogy, but of late years and old age had so impaired her memory that she could tell him nothing about it. He brought with him from the East a work brought out by a John Lawrence covering 191 pages and containing the genealogy of the Lawrences. I do not know whether you have ever seen it, but as you have never mentioned it, suppose you have not seen it- The work was brought out in 1857 and not many of them were published and put in circulation. I should like to have you look at (it) but as I have promised to return it in a day or two as Mr. Jaques has to return it to the owner, John Lawrence, I have done the next best thing-made an abstract from it. The owner considers himself a Lawrence/Townley heir. Should the matter ever be settled he will trip up on it as I will explain further on. And now to the condensed abstract I send you-

On the 14th page, written last where it should have been written first, is a short account of Archbishop Lawrence, who it appears, was an Italian and died in 916 (A.D.), nearly 1,000 years ago. On page 1 we have Robert Lawrence of Lancashire, born about 1150 and knighted Sir Robert of Ashton Hall in 1191. Who he sprung from cannot say unless it was from the 1st Lawrence who was the Archbishop of Canterbury, but as he was a monk of the church of Rome, and as monks don't marry, I would be afraid to suggest that Sir Robert of Ashton Hall sprung from him as all of the Lawrences in America and England evidently sprung from Sir Robert. Still, I don't think that your feelings would be much wounded and lacerated even if you ancestor, the monk, did raise a few children out of wedlock. Sue (wife of Will Parsons-Susan Jane Jackson, a sister of John A. Jackson thus a daughter of the Asahel Hyde Jackson/Phoebe Sherman Lawrence union) says she don't feel the least mad over it, even if such was the case. As it must have occurred about 1,000 years ago. Please break the news gently to mother Jackson (Phoebe Lawrence) the possibility of her ancestor being the monk Laurentius and that he died only a short time ago- about 1,000 years.

Covering pages 1, 2, and 3, we have the names in direct line of descent, from Sir Robert of Ashton Hall to Henry Lawrence of the 16th generation. Now all the Lawrences of 15 generations had other sons and daughters besides those mentioned, who became heads of families, who, each in turn had their descendants and formed branches of the genealogical tree.

Henry of the 16th generation emigrated to America with his son John the founder apparently of the American Lawrences. The genealogy is incomplete but as correct of course as could be got at the time the work was brought out.

The 8th generation must be very incomplete as to numbers for it should be at least 4 or 5 times as large as the 7th generation. I notice in the book and invitation for all Lawrences to send information in relation to their families and I think from that that a later and enlarged edition of the work must have been published years ago but the publication of these kinds of works are always limited. I further think that the original design of the work was in reference to the claim on the Lawrence/Townley Estate for I see a notation that

Isaac Lawrence of Gardiner, Maine interested himself in the matter and went to England in behalf of claimants and, came back again- Pages 4 to 13 embraces the generations of Lawrences as far as could be got at the time. The first names are all Lawrences, male and female. The last names are the wives and husbands of the Lawrences, male and female. I have only written the given names except in a few places where I have written L- which stand for Lawrence. So far no heads of families show 308-. The first generation commencing with John of Watertown being the father of the 2nd generation- the 2nd generation fathers and mothers of the 3rd generation and so on. You will see I have written the month of birth of each Lawrence in the margin. I think the 7th generation would be your generation. Examine it closely, see if you can recognize an names and places of residence of any of them that you are familiar with and if you can claim relationship to them, or any of them. If you can claim any of them, you may consider yourself and family out on the Lawrence/Townley claim.

Now to more fully explain. John Lawrence of Watertown was born in 1609. His first wife was Elizabeth. His second wife, Susanna, daughter of William Batchelder of Charlestown. He died in Groton (Connecticut) July 11, 1667. Now John Lawrence married Mary Townley in 1695 [change the chart sent you from 1639 to 1693]. Two children John and Jonathan were born [twins] in 1695. These two children survived him, so as the older of the twins, John, died at the age of 2 years. John Lawrence, the father must have died between 1695 and 1697, Now John Lawrence who married Mary Townley was perhaps not born within the 75 years of the time of John Lawrence of Watertown who died in 1667 and did not marry Mary Townley till 28 years had elapsed after the death of John Lawrence of Watertown. I am persuaded in my own mind that but a few of the Lawrences are acquainted with these facts, and are perhaps paying in money when they could not possibly establish a claim if they sprung from John Lawrence of Watertown. To establish a claim when that estate is divided[and there is no doubt it will be] it must be shown that every Lawrence making the claim must have Mary Townley blood in his veins, as the estate comes from the Townley side of the house. I see at the meeting in Detroit the name of Townley as a claimant. Sir Richard Townley's stock on the male side died out. The descendants of the Townleys, who were perhaps brothers or cousins or connections of Sir Richard Townley, cannot establish a claim any more than anybody else. The claimant must have Mary Townley's blood in them, except in the case of all the Townley/Lawrence dying out, then the heirship would go back to the nearest blood relative of Mary Townley and then down the line of descent again to the surviving heirs. I hope you will find in this list of names sent you no relatives, for, if you do, your cake is dough as far as any claim to the Townley estate is concerned. This genealogy is a revelation to me as I suppose it will be to you if you did not know it before. I feel sure I am correct in the view I have taken on this matter.

I send you on page 15 the copy of the opinion of Sir William H. G. Collis- solicitor of the high court of Chancery, Ireland, in relation to the claim of William T. Lawrence to the entailed property. Also the opinion of Messrs. Blake, Kear and Boyd, given in 1876. This I got from Mr. Clark recently. He is the holder of \$10,000 of the Lawrence/Townley bonds. His claim, when acknowledged and made good, will bring up with it the claims of the balance of the claimants that can be proven. I shall do what I can to dig for more information. In the meantime, I should like to hear from you. With love to all believe me.

Yours sincerely,

Will Parsons

P.S. I should like to hear from you as soon as you get time.

NOTE; See the last two pages of this lineage for sources before detailed examination of the Ancestry.

THE ANCESTRAL LINEAGE OF JOHN LAWRENCE OF WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Generation Number

- 1 Robert Lawrence of Lancashire, England was born probably as early as 1150 A.D. and was the ancestor of the earliest families of the name in England- attending his sovereign Richard Coer deLion (Richard the Lionhearted) to the war of the crusades in the Holy Land. He so distinguished himself in the siege of Aere that he was knighted Sir Robert of Ashton Hall and obtained for his arms "argent a cross raguly gules the crest one half of a chub inverted and erect.A.D. 1191"

These arms of Sir Robert Lawrence were also those of the other branches of the family following after him. Interpreted as follows:
"He beareth Ermine, a cross raguled gules by the name of Lawrence of Lancashire." 'raguled' is a term used to represent the rough hewn stems of a tree from which the branches have been rudely lopped. 'Ermine' is the fur from a weasel type animal and 'gules' is a term meaning red dyed throat. Thus the weasel shown on the crest above is colored red.
Proceeding with successive generations of ancestry, we have in order of time the first, Sir Robert of Ashton Hall.

2. Sir Robert Lawrence, son of the above, immediate successor of 1. Married a daughter of James Trafford, Esq. of Lancashire.

3. James of Ashton Hall and wife, Matilda de Washington, married in 1252, son of the above (Lawrence Washington, a descendant of the Washington's and a brother of the first President of the United States was one of the early proprietors of Mount Vernon.)
4. John Lawrence of Ashton Hall, married Margaret, daughter of Walter Chesford. No date given.
5. John Lawrence, son of above, married Elizabeth Holt of Stably in Lancashire and died, it is said, in 1360 A.D.
6. Sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall, son of the above, married Margaret Holden of Lancashire.
7. Sir Robert Lawrence, son of the above, of Ashton Hall, married Amphilbus Longford, daughter of Edward Longford.
8. Nicholas Lawrence, son of above, was of Agercroft. Married, and had seven sons.
9. John Lawrence, son of above of Suffolk, died in 1461.
10. Thomas Lawrence, son of above of Rumburgh, in Suffolk married, two sons.
11. John Lawrence, son of above, married Margery- his will was dated July 10, 1504. His wife died in 1507 and both are buried in the church of Rumburgh.
12. Robert Lawrence, son of the above, married.
13. John Lawrence, of Rumburgh married Elizabeth, with whom he had six children.
- ...- 14. John Lawrence, son of the above, married Agnes, with whom he had five children. He died in 1590 and was buried in Rumburgh.
- 15. John Lawrence, son of the above, was of Wisset in Suffolk and married Johan. (Joan) Frustenden with whom he had four children. He died in 1606.
- 16. Henry Lawrence, son of the above, married Mary, by whom he had John born at Wisset and Baptized October 8, 1609. The will of John Lawrence of Wisset, the father of Henry, refers to him as having removed from Wisset- to New England and settled in Charlestown. And on the list of those who became inhabitants of Charlestown, Massachusetts in 1635 is the name of Henry Lawrence. Also in the first division of land on Mistick side of 10 acres to a house, 5 of which were given in for after-comers, made as it appears February 20, 1638. Henry Lawrence received 5 acres, a house and lot was granted him in 1635 by George Blott.

Now all of the above had sons and daughters outside of those mentioned in the line of descent to Henry who migrated to America about or before 1635, and the English Lawrences of the present time are descended from them. This fetches us down to the 1st generation of Lawrences in this country. The genealogy in its generations and families of those descended from John Lawrence and his wife Elizabeth emigrated to this country with his father Henry Lawrence, the one mentioned in the 16th generation of English Lawrences.

1. John Lawrence, son of Henry Lawrence and Mary born at Wisset, England, baptized October 8, 1609, came to New England, married Elizabeth and settled in Watertown, Mass. They had children:
- 2 John Lawrence, born March 14, 1636 and wife Susanna, Charlestown.
 Nathaniel, born October 1639 and wife Sarah Groton
 Mary Lawrence, born July 1644 and husband Inego Potter, Charlestown
 Peleg Lawrence, born January 10, 1646 and wife Elizabeth, Groton
 Enoch Lawrence, born March 1648 and wife Ruth, Groton
- 3 3rd generation, children from the second generation
 John Lawrence, born January 1667 and Anna, Groton and Lexington
 Jonathan Lawrence, born June, 1696 and wife Hannah Stoneham
 Eleazer Lawrence, born February 1674 and wife Mary Lexington
 Nathaniel Lawrence, born February, 1677 and wife Anna Groton
 Daniel Lawrence, born March, 1681 and wife Sarah, Groton and Canaan
 Zechariah Lawrence, born July 1683 and wife Abigail, Groton and Pepperell
- 4 4th generation, children from the third generation
 John Lawrence, born January 1689 and wife Elizabeth Woburn
 Thomas Lawrence, born December, 1691 and wife Prudence Groton
 William Lawrence, Born August, 1697 and wife Susanna Groton
 Anna Lawrence born October, 1702 and husband Benjamin Bancroft Groton
 Jonathan Lawrence, born February 1706 and wife Elizabeth Lexington
 Benjamin Lawrence, born May 1713 and wife Jane Westborough
 Amos Lawrence, born February 1715 and wife Abigail Groton
 Jonathan Lawrence, born December 1724 and wife Rachel Woburn
 Peley Lawrence, born June 1701 and wife Ruth Groton and Pepperell
 Jonathan Lawrence, born October, 1703 and wife Tryphena Littleton
 David Lawrence, born December, 1705 and wife Hannah Littleton
 Sarah Lawrence and husband, John Cummings Groton
 Samuel Lawrence, born May 1714 and wife Mary Littleton
 Prudence Lawrence, born April 1722 and husband, Peter Parker Groton
 Eleazer Lawrence and wife Lucy Littleton
 Nathaniel Lawrence, born May, 1702 and wife Dorothy Groton

James Lawrence, born August, 1705 and wife Mary Groton and Pepperell
 Anna Lawrence, born 1708 and her husband Samuel Wright Groton
 Enoch Lawrence, born November, 1710 and wife Sarah Pepperell and
 Mason, New Hampshire
 Sarah Lawrence, born March, 1713 and her husband Zechariah Lawrence
 Cousins, Groton
 Joseph Lawrence, born April, 1718 and wife Elizabeth Groton, Pepperell
 Benjamin Lawrence, born November 1720 and wife Rebecca Groton
 Daniel Lawrence, born April 1702 and wife ... Canaan, Connecticut
 (April 22, 1702 - January 27, 1790 m. Rachel Kingsbury)*
 Isaac Lawrence born February 1704 and wife Lydia Canaan
 (February 25, 1705 m. Lydia Hewett 12/19/1727
 m2. Elizabeth)*
 Jeremiah Lawrence, and his wife Olive Canaan
 (~1708 m1. Olive Wheeler, ~1727, m2. Betsy Smith)*
 (Sarah Lawrence, born October 7, 1709 m. Joseph Parkhurst 1/20/1731
 Plainfield, Connecticut.)*
 Ruth Lawrence, born September 1710 and husband Elias Elliott Groton
 Jeremiah Lawrence, born December 1713 and Elizabeth Groton
 Abigail Lawrence, born May 1718 and her husband Z. Kemp Groton
 Elizabeth Lawrence, born October 1720 and husband John Mosier Groton
 Rachel Lawrence, born 1727 and husband John Chamberlin Groton

5. 5th Generation, Children of the 4th generation

Anne Lawrence, born August 1720 and husband James Simond, Leominster
 Thomas Lawrence, born September 1720 and wife Sarah Groton, Pepperell
 Jonathan Lawrence, born September 1725 and wife Esther Groton
 William Lawrence, born May 1723 and wife Lincoln
 Susannah Lawrence, born February, 1724 and James Prescott Groton
 Anna Lawrence, born January 1727 and husband Israel Hobart Groton
 Abel Lawrence, born February 1729 and wife Mary Groton
 Sarah Lawrence, born December 1731 and husband, Jonathan Reed Littleton
 Jonathan Lawrence, born February 1733 and wife Elizabeth Woburn, Ashby
 Bezaleel Lawrence, born April 1736 and wife Sarah Winchester N.H.
 Micah Lawrence, born March 1738 and wife Eunice Winchester, N.H.
 Elizabeth Lawrence, born December 1741 and husband, Thaddeus Bowman
 Lexington, Mass. And Weathersfield, VT.
 John Lawrence, born June 1748 and wife Betty Groton
 Amos Lawrence, born October, 1748 and wife Sarah Fitchburgh, Mass.
 Amos Lawrence, born September 1750 and wife Betty Groton
 Nehemiah Lawrence, born January, 1752 and wife Esther Groton
 Samuel Lawrence, born 1754 and Susanna Groton
 Jonathan Lawrence, born May 1752 and wife Mary Ashby, Mass.
 Ebenezer Lawrence, born October, 1747 and wife Hannah Woburn, Mass.
 Nathaniel Lawrence, born July 1764 and wife Hannah Tyngsborough

Alice Lawrence, born September 1749 and husband Edmund Longley,
Shirley, Mass.

Thomas Lawrence, born December 1747 and wife Anna Pepperell

Esther Lawrence, Born December 1746 and husband John Page, Shirley, Mass
And Reading, VT.

Levi Lawrence, born August 1759 and wife Elizabeth Thetford, VT

Asa Lawrence, born March 1765 and wife Lydia Groton

Joel Lawrence, born July 1767 and wife Ruth Groton

William Lawrence, Born April 1752 and wife Eunice Groton

Sarah Lawrence, born May 1760 and husband, Samuel Bass Braintree, Mass.
And Randolph, Mass.

Phebe Lawrence, born September 1762 and husband Edmund Foster- Littleton

Mary Lawrence, born November 1767 and husband Asa Brooks Concord

Abel Lawrence, born July 1754 and wife Abigail Salem, Mass.

Elizabeth Lawrence, born April 1761 and husband Joseph Wheeler Ashby

Benjamin Lawrence, born May 1764 and wife Persis Ashby

Dorcas Lawrence, born September 1766, and husband John E. Stone Ashby

William Johnson Lawrence, born January 1773 and wife Elizabeth,
Ashburnham, Mass.

Sarah Lawrence, born September 1759 and husband, John Smith Lexington
and Randolph, VT.

Bezaleel Lawrence, born Apr. 1763 and wife Abigail Leominster, Mass

Esther Lawrence, born June 1765 and husband John Hatrip Lexington

Jonas Lawrence, born February 1770 and wife Dorcas Lexington

Jonathan Lawrence, born September 1774 and wife Polly Lexington

Eunice Lawrence, born July 1767 and husbands James Scott and Jesse Ware
Winchester, N.H. and Niagra Falls, N.Y.

Zulinn Lawrence, born May 1769 and Enoch Fairfield Pittsfield

Hubbard Lawrence, born March 1773 and Mary St. Johnsbury, VT.

Susannah Lawrence, born June 1775 and Joseph Pierce St. Johnsbury, VT.

Betsy Lawrence, born March, 1777 and husband Henry Marsh Dalton

Solomon Willard Lawrence, born April 1783 and wife Mary Dalton

Betsy Lawrence, born April 1781 and husband Allen Farwell Ashby

Zon Lawrence, born April 1783 and husband John Andrews Fitchburg

Amos Lawrence, born 1773 and wife Sally Fitchburg

Nabby Lawrence, born May 1774 and husband Ephraim Hale Stowe, VT.

Moses Lawrence, born September 1775 and wife Sally Shirley

Sarah Lawrence, born May 1777 and husband Samuel Gates Stowe, VT

Anna Lawrence, born February 1779 and husband, Israel Hale Stowe, VT.

Alice Lawrence, born August 1781 and husband Nehemiah Andrews
Fitchburg

Ezra Lawrence, born March 1783 and wife Rebecca Verona, N.Y.

Patty Lawrence, born January 1788 and husband, William S. Merriam
Ashburnham

Betsy Lawrence, born June 1782 and husband Samuel Lovejoy Townsend

Luther Lawrence, born September 1778 and wife Lucy Groton and Lowell
 William Lawrence born September 1783 and wife Susan R. Boston
 Amos Lawrence, born April 1786 and wife Sarah R. Boston
 Mary Lawrence born November 1790 and husband Samuel Woodbury Groton
 Abbott Lawrence, born 1792 and wife Katherine Boston
 Elizabeth Lawrence, born March 1796 and Joshua Greene Groton
 Samuel Lawrence, born January 1801 and wife Alison Andover, Mass
 William Pitt Lawrence, born September 1784 and wife Nancy
 Nashville, Tennessee
 Daniel Lawrence, born April 1762 and wife Polly Hollis, N.H.
 Eber Lawrence, born October 1771 and wife Lucy Burlington, Mass.
 Aaron Lawrence, born May 1774 and wife Lucy Putnam Hollis, N.H.
 Anna Lawrence, born July 1772 and Isaac B. Farrar New Ipswich, N.H.
 Fairfax, VT.
 Martha Lawrence, born May 1752 and husband Daniel Stone Groton, Conn
 John Gordon Lawrence, born May 1775 and wife Elizabeth Orono, Maine
 William Solomon Lawrence, born ---- and wife Esther Canaan, Conn.
 Abiah Lawrence, born November, 1760 and husband Stephen Brown,
 West Stockbridge
 Abel Lawrence, born September 1763 and wife Abigail Canaan, Conn.
 Josiah Lawrence, born October 1765 and wife Amy Canaan, Conn.
 Tryphena Lawrence, born July 1768 and Hugh White Whitesborough, N.Y.
 Charlotte Lawrence, born October 1770 and husband, Isaac Dunham
 Canaan, Connecticut
 Consider Lawrence, born February 1777 and Wealthy Peck Canaan, Conn.
 William Lawrence, born January 1779 and wife Lotte Rood Canaan, Conn.
 Peter Lawrence, born May 1768 and wife Mary Ashby
 Jeremiah Lawrence, born January 1772 and wife Rachel Ashby
 Lavinia Lawrence, born March 1776 and husband Elijah Wright Ashby
 Thaddeus Lawrence, born November 1771 and Joall Cohasset
 Nathan Lawrence, born April 1789 and wife Elizabeth Hollis and Quincy
 George Lawrence, born May 1793 and wife Rebecca Littleton
 Loocy Adam Lawrence, born July 1795 and husband Moses Clark Boston
 Henry Lawrence, born October 1803 and Mary F Littleton
 Jaby Lawrence, born March 1767 and Lucy Ashby
 Alvarus Lawrence, born April 1796 and wife Eliza Dublin, N.H.
 Reuben Lawrence, born January 1768 and wife Lois Ashby
 Alethon Lawrence, born October 1771 and Polly Ashby
 Stephen Lawrence, born May 1780 and wife Sally Ashby
 Amos Lawrence, born October 1781 and wife Lydia Ashby
 Elizabeth Lawrence, born November 1770 and Isaac Leighton Gardiner, Me
 Edward Lawrence, born January 1778 and Abigail Pittston, Maine
 Simeon Lawrence, born September 1783 and Mary Gardiner, ME
 Sarah Lawrence, born November 1791 and husband James Jackins
 Pittston, Maine

Charles Lawrence, born February 1793 and Eleanor Gardiner, Maine
 James Lawrence, born February, 1795 and wife, Susan Gardiner, Maine
 William Lawrence, born February 1795 and wife Mary Gardiner, Maine
 Hannah Lawrence, born July 1796 and husband James Costellow

Richmond, Maine

Isaac Lawrence, born November 1797 and wife Phebe Gardiner, Maine
 Mary Lawrence, born February, 1801 and husband Peter Waitt Gardiner, ME
 John Lawrence, born 1767 and Abigail Concord
 Mary Lawrence, born July 1774 and husband Joseph Buttrick Concord
 Thomas Lawrence, born 1779 and wife Lucy Concord and Alton
 Abigail Lawrence, born -----, and husband Silas Conant Concord and Alton
 Anna Lawrence, born August 1787 and husband Abijah Whitney Weston
 James Lawrence, born 1767 and wife Anna Westford
 Abell Lawrence, born April 1772 and wife Mary Pepperell
 Lemuel Lawrence, born August 1770 and wife Merey Pepperell
 Jesse Lawrence, born May 1774 and wife Betsy Pepperell
 Zechariah Lawrence, born August 1777 and wife Amy Charlestown N.H.
 Ruth Lawrence, born February 1781 and husband Samuel Gates Verona, NY
 Joseph Lawrence, born February 1773 and wife Lucy Pepperell
 Phebe Lawrence, born March 1777 and husband John Perham Athens, VT
 Eunice Lawrence, born July 1780 and husband George W. Wright Pepperell
 Sybil Lawrence, born July 1782 and Isaac Boynton Pepperell
 Joshua Lawrence, born June 1781 and Mary Roxbury, N.H.
 Betsy Lawrence, born June, 1783 and husband Samuel Wadsworth

Roxbury, N.H.

Asa Lawrence, born August, 1785 and wife Lucy Roxbury
 Sophia Lawrence, born April 1794 and Breed Osgood Sullivan, N.H.
 John Lawrence, born July 1798 and wife Hannah Keene, N.H.
 Alvin Lawrence born July 1800 wife #1 Chloe

#2 Sarah Deerfield, Mass

Ephraim Lawrence, born April 1779 and wife Nancy Windham, VT
 Artemus Lawrence, born February 1781 and Lucy Jaffrey, N.H.
 Moody Lawrence, born January 1783 and wife Dorcas Jaffrey, N.H.
 Ithamar Lawrence, born January 1787 and wife Betsy Jaffrey, N.H.
 Rebecca Lawrence born April 1789 and Stephen F. Warner Pembroke, N.Y.
 Milla Lawrence, born September 1791 and husband Cyrus Brown

Sharon, N.H. and Pembroke, N.Y.

Manasseh Lawrence, born January 1794 and Mary Alden, N.Y..
 Elisha Lawrence, born 1764 and wife Esther Weybridge, VT
 Asa Lawrence born ----- and wife Tamar Middlebury, VT.
 Jonathan Lawrence, born February 1761 and wife Lucy Moisa, N.Y. (?)
 Ruluff Lawrence born 1770 and wife Sarah Middlebury, VT
 Zimiri Lawrence, born September 1772 and wife Asenath Weybridge, VT
 Joseph Lawrence, born May 1774 and wife Anna Canaan, Conn.
 Benjamin Lawrence, born May 1774 and wife Sarah Middlebury, VT

7th Generation, Children of the 6th generation

Asa F. Lawrence, born February 1799 and wife Sarah Jane
Pepperell. Cambridge, and Groton
Curtis Lawrence, born April 1799 and wife Lucy Groton
Abel Lawrence, born April 1791 and wife Nancy Lincoln
Abel Lawrence, born September 1786 and wife Catherine Salem, Mass.
Harriet Lawrence, born July 1793 and husband Abel L. Pierson Salem, Mass.
Jane Lawrence, born December 1799 and husband Benjamin Perkins
Boston and Roxbury
Horace Lawrence, born March 1797 and wife Hannah Ashby
Nancy Lawrence, born December 1802 and husband Samuel Barrett
Ashburnham, Mass.
Zoe Lawrence, born April 1804 and husband Ivers White Ashburnham
Thomas Lawrence, born 1787 and wife Olive Leominster
Anna Lawrence, born April 1790 and Walter Johnson Leominster
Myra Lawrence, born December 1797 and husband Charles Wilder
Leominster
Polly Lawrence, born April 1799 and husband James Hayward Grafton N.H.
Elizabeth Swain Lawrence, born September 1807 and William Piper Bedford
Louisa Lawrence, born January 1802 and husband Zelotes Hossner
Cambridge, Mass.
Mary Ann Lawrence, born May, 1805 and Ashley P. Graves Batavia, N.Y.
Edward A. Lawrence, born October 1808 and Margarette O. East Windsor, NY
Hubbard P. Lawrence, Born May 1812 and wife Martha Brownhelm, Ohio ?
John Lawrence, born May 1814 and Annie Temple Carlisle, Mass.
Alona Lawrence, born July 1801 and husband Walter Russell Shirley, Mass.
Ruel Lawrence, born November 1803 and Thankful Shirley/Ashburnham
Sabrina Lawrence, born March 1808 and Silas Willard Shirley/Ashburnham
Anna Maria Lawrence, born March 1806 and Norman Leaver Boston
William R. Lawrence, born May 1812 and wife Susan C. Boston
Amos A. Lawrence, born July 1814 and Sarah E. Boston/ Brookline
Susannah Lawrence, born May 1817 and Charles Mason Salem/Boston
Annie Bigelow Lawrence, born April 1820 and Benjamin L. Rotch
New Bedford, Mass.
James Lawrence, born December 1821 and Elizabeth Boston
William Lawrence, born ----- and wife Lucy Burlington, VT
Lucy Putnam Lawrence, born May 1803 and husband Ambrose Pease
S(L) andgrove, VT
Aaron Lawrence, born December 1804 1st wife Lucretia Clagget
2nd wife Sarah Abbott Amherst, N.H.
Mary Putnam Lawrence, born March 1807 and husband Perkins Wiley
Weston, VT

Joseph Lawrence, born April 1796 and wife Submit S. Bucksport, Maine
 Abel Lawrence, Born May 1797 and wife Anna Bucksport, Maine
 William Solomon Lawrence, born October 1797 and wife Milla C. Canaan
 Bersheba Lucina Lawrence, born January 1800 and husband Anson M. Howard
 Oshkosh, Wisconsin
 Charlotte Lawrence, born December 1804 and husband Pomeroy Gorsline
 Rome, Pennsylvania
 Wealthy Lawrence, born September 1808 and Elisha Forsyth Newark, NY
 Harvey Lawrence, born March 1791 and wife Betsy Canaan, Conn.
 Joseph Lawrence, born 1796 and wife Submit Bucksport, Maine
 Charlotte Lawrence, born May 1802 and husband William Adam Canaan
 Maria Lawrence, born August 1797 and husband Thomas Langdon Canaan
 Miles Lewis Lawrence, born November 1800 and wife Sylvia C.
 Berkshire, N. Y.
 Laura Lawrence, born November 1802 and husband Daniel Norton,
 New Hartford, Conn.
 Maria Lawrence, born December 1798 and husband Thomas Smith, Cohasset
 George A. Lawrence, born January 1802 and Eveline Cohasset
 Josiah O. Lawrence, born November 1802 and 1st wife Hannah K.
 2nd wife Sarah Jane Cohasset
 Mary O. Lawrence, born May 1807 and husband John Parker Cohasset
 Hannah Lawrence, born July 1809 and husband Hiram Bruce Brighton
 David Lawrence, born August 1792 and wife Betsy Ashby
 Ambrose Lawrence, born May 1816 and wife Emily Lowell
 Samuel Lawrence, born January 1823 and wife, Dorothy Ann Lowell
 John Lawrence, born May 1796 and wife Phebe Ashburnham
 Edward Lawrence, born, November 1803 and Caroline Dresden, Maine
 Daniel Lawrence, born February 1805 and Sophia E. Pittston, Maine
 Benjamin Lawrence, born May 1809 and Mary Ann Gardiner, Maine
 Washington Lawrence, born May 1812 and Hertilla B. Pittston, Maine
 Cordelia Lawrence, born July 1814 and James Marson Pittston., Maine
 Franklin Lawrence, born July 1820 and Mary Pittston, Maine
 Lavine C. Lawrence, born September 1822 and George W. Nichols,
 Pittston, Maine
 Elias Lawrence, born September 1825 and wife Hannah Gardiner, Maine
 Susanna Lawrence, born October 1798 and Asa Hill Billerieu
 Sarah Lawrence, born June 1803 and husband Andrew H. Reed Mendon
 John Lawrence, born September 1806 and wife Almira Concord
 Eliza Lawrence, born July 1808 and Abel B. Haywood Concord
 Joshua Lawrence, born January 1810 and Sarah A. Concord
 Thomas F. Lawrence, born September 1811 and Eliza Ann Acton
 Daniel Lawrence, born September 1797 and Elizabeth Medford
 Ralph Lawrence, born July 1802 and wife Phebe Acton
 Betsy Lawrence, born July 1784 and husband Oliver Moody Bristol, VT.
 Harvey H. Lawrence, born.... And wife Chloe Wausau, Wis.

Abiron Lawrence, born August 1791 and wife Abby	Moir, N.Y.
Oren Lawrence, born July 1793, and wife Abby	Moir, N.Y.
Clark Lawrence, born August 1793 and wife Sally	Moir, N.Y.
Sidney Lawrence, born December 1801 and 1 st wife Mary Fuller	
2 nd wife Frances M. Atwater	Moir, N.Y.
Robert F. Lawrence, born August 1810 and Mary Lawrence	Claremont, NH
Mary Ann Lawrence, born July 1815 and Thomas Murphy	Walepole, N.H.
Olivia S. Lawrence, born August 1816 and Sidney Moody	Middlebury, VT
Electa Lawrence, born November 1803 and Constant Dickinson	
	Middlebury, VT.
Edwin Lawrence, born May 1805 and wife Phebe	Weybradge, VT.
Ann Eliza Lawrence, born April 1816 and F. W. Hopkins	Rutland, VT
Myron Lawrence, born May 1799 and wife Clarissa	Belchertown, Mass.
Edwin Lawrence, born February 1808 and wife Sybil	Ann Arbor, Michigan

8th Generation- children of the 7th Generation

Edward A. Lawrence, born February 1823 and Joanna P.	Wyoming, Penn.
Lucy Maria Lawrence. Born March, 1825 and William Wood	Bombay, India
Edwin Lawrence, born October 1810 and Hannah F.	Leominster
Daniel B. Lawrence, born December 1817, and Martha A.	Bucksport, Maine
Joseph C. Lawrence, born September 1821, and Hannah	Bucksport, Maine
George C. Lawrence, born October 1826, and Sarah J.	Detham, Maine
Daniel Warren Lawrence, born October 1830 and Mary E.	Medford, Mass.
Mark D. Lawrence, born February 1825, and wife Susan L.	Northhampton

The foregoing genealogy was obtained by Will Parsons, husband of Susan Jane Jackson, daughter of Phoebe Lawrence Jackson and niece of Porter J. Lawrence, and mailed to Porter J. Lawrence as an accompanying attachment to the letter Will wrote regarding the ancestry question. Because of the extensive detail of names it does not appear possible to assign it to any other source than that identified in the Parson letter. He received it from Mr. Jaques with whom Mr. Parson's was acquainted. Mr. Jaques mother claimed to be a Lawrence and, after attending her funeral in the East, he returned to Cleveland, Ohio, with a book tracing the Lawrence ancestry written by a John Lawrence published in 1857. Since the genealogy is an abstract of the book hand written by Mr. Parsons, one might question its completeness since the book contained 191 pages of information.

ADDENDUM

I have only yesterday, January 15, 2003, learned that Ms. Ruth Hoeper, a researcher specializing in the Lawrence connection, has obtained a copy of the original book, copyright 1857, and will forward that to me for my perusal and use. For this I will be grateful. Perhaps additional evidence will be received forthwith.

ADDENDUM 2- July, 2003

I have indeed received the book from Ms. Hoeper:

Lawrence, John, The Family of John Lawrence, of Wisset, In Suffolk, England and of Watertown and Groton, Massachusetts., S. K. Whipple, publisher, Boston, Massachusetts, 1857.

I have reproduced the entire book and have had it covered and bound with a spiral binding. In addition, a copy of Mr. Lawrence's earlier work entitled Genealogical Memoirs of the Family of John Lawrence of Watertown, 1636 dated 1847 is available. This earlier work was reproduced and distributed at the expense of the author. There are many additional "familes" included. While I am sure Mr. Lawrence made every effort to be all inclusive, it is devoid of Lawrence families who became a real part of the westward movement- eastern New York, Ohio, Michigan among other states.

Cleveland. Nov 8/85

Dear Uncle Peter,

I have not heard from you for some time, not since I wrote last. We expected a call from you this summer, and also that we, should have, another struggle with the fish in Lake Erie. We read an account of the meeting of the Lawrence Torrey heirs in Detroit, in a Detroit paper lent me by Mr. Harkness, a son of a Mr. Harkness who attended the meeting as one of the heirs.

A Mr. Jaques living in this town, that I am well acquainted with recently returned from the East where he went to bury his mother, who was a Lawrence, but ~~claimed~~ ^{to be} one of the heirs. He has frequently, he tells me within the last few months written her to get ^{what} information he could in relation to her genealogy, but of late years old age had so impaired her memory that she could tell him nothing about it. He brought with him from the East a work brought out by John Lawrence Corning 191 Pages and containing the genealogy of the Lawrences. I do not know whether you have ever seen it.

but as you have never mentioned it,
suppose you have not seen it - The work
was brought out in 1857 - and not
many of them were published and
put in circulation - I should like to
send it to you to look at but as I have
promised to return it in a day or two,
as Mr. Jaques has to return ^{it} to the owner
John. G. Lawrence, - I have done the next
best thing made an abstract from it -
The owner considers himself a Lawrence
Turney heir - Should the matter ever
be settled he will trip up on it, as I
will explain further on. ~~Active~~

and now to the Condensed abstract
I send you - On the 14th page,
written last when it should have been
written first, is a short account of ~~Arch~~ Bishop
Lawrence, who it appears was an Italian,
and died in 916 - nearly 1000 years
ago - On page 1. We have Robert ^{Lawrence}
of Lancashire, born about 1150 - and
Knighted Sir Robert of Ashton Hall in
1191 - Who he sprung from, can not say,
unless it was from the 1st Lawrence
who was Archbishop of Canterbury, but -
as he was a monk of the church
of Rome, and as monks don't marry

It would be afraid to suggest that
Sir Robert of Ashton Hall sprung from him,
as all the Laurences in America and England
evidently sprung from Sir Robert - Still
I do not think that your feelings would
be much wounded and lacerated even ^{if} your
ancestor - the monk did raise a few
children out of wed-lock - Sue says
she don't feel the least mad ~~over~~
over it, even if such was the
case, as it must have occurred
about 1000 years ago - Please break
the news gently to mother Jackson the
possibility of her ancestor being the
monk Laurentius and that he died
only a short-time ago, about 1000 years.
Covering pages 1 - & 3 we ^{have} the names
in a direct line of descent - from
Sir Robert of Ashton Hall to
Henry Lawrence of the 16th generation.
Now all the Laurences in the 16th generation
had other sons and daughters besides
those mentioned, ~~who~~ became heads
of families, who, each in turn ~~had~~
their descendants and formed
branches of the genealogical tree -
Henry of the 16th generation
emigrated to America with his

son John the founder (apparently)
of the American Lawrences -

The genealogy is incomplete ~~of course~~
but as correct of course as could
be got at, at the time the work
was brought out - The 8th generation
must be very incomplete as to numbers
for it should be at least 4 or 5
times as large as the 7th generation.
I notice in the book an invitation
for all Lawrences to send information
in relation to their families and
I think from that, that a later and
enlarged edition of the work
must have been published
years ago, - but the publication
of these kind of works are always
limited - I further think that
the original design of the work
was in reference to the claim on
the Lawrence Towneley Estate, for
I see a notation that Isaac
Lawrence of Gardiner, Maine
~~interested~~ ^{himself} in the matter and
went to England in behalf of
claimants and —. Came back
again - Pages 4 to 13 embrace
the generations of Lawrences as far

as could be got at the time -
The first names are all Laurences
male & females - The last names
are the wives and husbands of
the Laurences male and female,
I have only written the given names
except in a few places where I have
written L - which stands for Laurence.
So far the no of heads of families
shows 308 - The 1st generation ^{commencing}
with John of Watertown being Father
of the 2nd generation - The 2nd generation
fathers & mothers of 3rd generation and
so on - You will see I have
written the ^{month} ~~date~~ of birth of each
Laurence in the margin - I think
the 7th generation would be your
generation - Examine it closely,
see if you can recognise any
names and places of residences
of any of them that you are
familiar with, and if you
can claim relationship with
them or any of them - If you
can claim any relationship with
any of them, you may consider
yourself and family out on
the Laurence Torndley claim.

Now - to more fully explain -
John Lawrence of Watertown
was born in 1609 - his 1st wife
was Elizabeth - 2nd wife
Susanna daughter of Wm Batchelder
of Charlestown - He died in ^{England} ~~England~~
July 11th 1667 - Now John Lawrence
~~who married Mary Towneley~~
~~born it must have been between~~
in 1693 (Change the chart seat - you, from
1639 to 1693) - Two children John
& Jonathan were born (twins) in
1695 - These 2 children survived
him, so as the older of the twins, John
died at the age of 2 years - John L.
the father must have died ~~between~~
1695 & 1697 - Now John L. who
married Mary T. was perhaps not
born within 75 years of the time of
John L. of Watertown who died in
1667 - and did not marry Mary Towneley
till 28 years had elapsed after the
death of J. L. of Watertown - I am
persuaded in my own mind that
but few of the Laurences are acquainted
with these facts - and are perhaps paying
in money when they could not possibly
establish a claim if they sprung from

John L of Watertown - To establish
a claim ~~when~~ that estate is divided,
(and there is no doubt but that it
will be) it must be shown that
every Lawrence making the claim
must have Mary Torneley blood in
his veins, as the Estate comes from
the Torneley side of the house - I see
at the meeting of Detroit the name
of Torneley as a claimant - Sir Richard
Torneley died on the male side died
out - The descendants of Torneleys who
were perhaps brothers or cousins or
connections of Sir R. Torneley cannot
establish a claim any more than
any body else, the claimant - must
have Mary T. blood in them, ~~except~~
in the case of all the Torneley Laurences
dying out, then the heirship would
go back to the nearest blood relative
of Mary T, and then down the line
of descent - again to the surviving heir.
I hope you will find in this list
of names sent you, no relatives,
for if you do, your cake is dough
as far as any claim to the Torneley
estate is concerned - This genealogy
is a revelation to me as I suppose

it will be to you, if you did not know of it - before -- I feel sure I am correct in the view I have taken of this matter -

I send you on page 15 the ^{copy of the} opinion of Sir Wm St. J. Collins - Solicitor of the High Court of Chancery, Ireland, in relation to the claim of William F. Lawrence to the Entailed property, also the opinion of Messrs Blake Kear & Boyd, given in 1876 - this I got through Mr. Clark recently - He is the holder of \$10,000.²⁰ of the Lawrence Torndyke bonds - His claim when acknowledged and made good, will bring up with it the claims of the balance of the claimants that can be proven -

I shall do what I can to dig for more information. In the mean time I should like to hear from you - With love to all believe me

Yours Sincerely
Will. Parsons.

P.S. I should like to hear from you as soon as you get time.

Letter from Mr. George W. Langdon, Baraboo, WI. To Porter J. Lawrence

What Mrs. Lowe says the Vermont people say Experience L. took care of Jonathan's children until her father married Hannah Robbins in 1738. But the question is, who was mother of those children and who were they? Mary, Josiah, Jacob, John and Samuel seems what the Vermont people say. Experience is given as the eldest. But they say Josiah was born in 1743 and some say that Jonathan married Hannah Ratting in 1738/ a Jonathan _____ marry a Hannah Robbins as _____ in Walpool a Record of that marriage, also saw this in the Town Book. E. Daniel Robbins? Took Hannah Lawrence and daughter off of the Town in August 1777. Where could the other children have been then? John Lawrence married February 9th, 1769. He was born January 17th, 1748. He was died October 27th, 1825, on Thursday 40 minutes past 12 at noon, age 78 years, 7 months, and 25 days. Tex(t) 39 x 90 Psalms 2 part tex(t) 4 chapter of Proverbs 7th verse. Mother Lawrence died February 28th, 1836 at 7 o'clock in the morning. Tex(t) 1st Thessalonians 4th chapter beginning at the 13th verse and to the end of the chapter. Attended by Elder Willis

that - Mrs Lore says
the Overmant - Peaple say
Experience took care of Jonathan & they
with his father married Hannah Rollins
in 1788. But the question is who was
mother of these children & who were
they Mary, Josiah, Jacob, John,
& Samuel, seems to be what the
Overmant - Peaple say as Experience
is junior as the Elderst. - But they
say Josiah was Born 1743 and says
after say that Jonathan married Hannah
Rollins in 1788 & Jonathan - (Pip)
Mary & Hannah Rollins as 3 sons.
in Walpole a Record of that
Marriage, also says that in the
Town Book E Daniel Rollins took
Hannah Towner. & Daughters
(offr.) of the Town in August
1777) Where could the other
children of Ben than

Jonathan's first wife was
Elizabeth Buttrick when as where
married & then got to leave
she must have (Pip) 804 long
after Josiah's Birth for 4 years
after his Birth 1784 is the Mass
of ^{in 1784} Josiah to Hannah Rollins in
1788. Of the relation age of
Josiah, Brother & Sister of
804 know. But the must
of them been the youngest
Except - are ^{in 1784} 804 the
youngest - Married Mary
Beauch in - 400000 Town
March 18, 1761 Burg 27 old

George W Landon
Baraboo (Miss)

John Lawren married Feb¹² 1749

she was born Jan¹⁷ 1748

he was Born Oct²⁴ 1828
on Thursday 30 minutes past 7
at Noon Age 18 years 3 months &
25 days Tex 38 x 90 Pains 2 past
Tex 4 Chaplets of Rosary 3 verse

Mother Lawrence Died Feb²⁸
1830 at 7 O'clock in the morning
Tex 14 - the agonies of Chaplets
Beginning at the 13 verse & to
the end of the Chaplets
Attended by Elder Willis

Mountain Ridge Jan. 1886
Mr. Lawrence

Dear Sir I have no
doubt But we are Cousins though distant
as regards my knowledge of the Birth
of the first Children of Johnathan Lawrence
I know nothing (Josiah) he was my great
Grandfather he was 67 years old at his death
which occurred (1802) I have no knowledge
separately who his Mother was she having
died when (Josiah) was a young Boy,
Mrs. Low of Indianapolis was here last Sept.
she told me, that they told her when
in Canada that Johnathan married
for his first wife Elizabeth Butrick
a widow I have also been informed
that (she) was a Lawrence before
she married (Mr. Butrick) after Johnathan
first wife died, (Experience) was her father
House-keeper until the second marriage
About the year (1800) Experience came
with Josiah Lawrence & his wife, my
Father said that (Experience) married a
Mr. (Keep) Josiah settled at or near Fishkill
(I think there could be information
obtained there) John Lawrence of Bennington
& my Father were first Cousins, if my
Father was living he would be (99) years
old he was born April 11th 1786 he told

Monkton Ridge, VT. January 1886

Mr. Lawrence

Dear Sir I have no doubt but we are cousins though distant as regards my knowledge of the birth of the first children of Jonathan Lawrence, I know nothing. Josiah, he was my great grandfather he was 67 years old at his death which occurred in 1802. I have no knowledge definitely who his mother was, she having died when Josiah was a young boy. Mrs. Low of Indianapolis was here last September, she told me that they told her when in Canada that Jonathan married for his first wife Elizabeth Butrick, a widow. I have also been informed that she was a Lawrence before she married Mr. Butrick. After Jonathan's first wife died, Experience was her father's housekeeper until the second marriage about the year 1800 Experience came with Josiah Lawrence and his wife. My father said that Experience married a Mr. Keep. Josiah settled at or near Fishkill. I think there could be information obtained there. John Lawrence of Bennington and my father were first cousins. If my father was living, he would be 99 years old. He was born April 11th, 1786. He told me that his great grandfather Jonathan Lawrence died a good many years before he (my father) was born and that Jonathan went back to England and died there. Father told me this some 35 years ago. As I understand it, Jonathan and son Henry came to Bennington. I had supposed that John the brother of Josiah settled at Fishkill (N.Y.) the same as Jacob. I don't know of any that claim descent from John Lawrence that lived and died in Bennington except the wife of S. S. Rich (?) of Malone, N. Y. I am the daughter of Josiah Mumford. Josiah Mumford was the son of Mary Lawrence. Mary Lawrence Mumford was the daughter of Josiah Lawrence, Josiah Lawrence was the son of Jonathan Lawrence. Jonathan Lawrence was a sea captain. John Lawrence of Bennington is the son of Solomon Lawrence, the youngest child of Josiah Lawrence. You wished to know my age. I am 63 years old. I was born October 19th, 1822. Josiah Lawrence birth must have been in 1785, 151 years ago the present year as he was 67 when he died in 1802. I can't tell which were the older, Samuel Lawrence or Josiah Lawrence I think I have given you all the information that I can. Hoping to hear from you again, truly your cousin, A. W. Day

P.S. I am not personally acquainted with John Lawrence of Bennington, but we are cousins.

Mr Lawrence

Respected Cousin

Letters from Mrs
Amos W Day
Marbleton Ridge MS,

Monkton Ridge, VT. February 8th 1886

Mr. Lawrence, Respected cousin

It was with pleasure that I read and received your last and the report. Many thanks for the favor. I have mailed it to Mr. John Lawrence of Bennington with a request to have him mail it to Mrs. Bostwick. It is to be sent to Mr. Almon Lawrence of Monkton. Mr. Almon Lawrence is the old gentleman that you have referred to. He will be 82 next May. He is the son of Diah Lawrence. Diah Lawrence was the son of Josiah Lawrence. Mr. Almon Lawrence can't give any information than you have now already obtained and he wishes me to ask you if the record you which you have is taken from actual records or are they from letters. I infer from your letter that you have no record except of the family of Jonathan Lawrence by the second marriage. The second wife was Hannah Robbins. She was my great grandfather's step-mother. I understand by the report that anyone not belonging to the association will be counted out unless they can prove beyond a doubt that they are descendants of Mary Townley. If that be the case, then I with others will have a poor chance. There are some here that stand in the same relation to Mary Townley that you (do) so that are unable to help in the matter in the least. Now what is the best course for us to pursue is a query to me. There are some here that are wealthy. They will never spend anything in this enterprise. They believe it is all moonshine! But suppose it is if it had not been agitated we should never have known how many relations we have or where they are. My great grandfather, Josiah Lawrence married Mary Branch a widow in Norwich, Connecticut, March 1761. I think my father said that his grandfather, Josiah Lawrence, was born in Massachusetts but could not tell in what place. Josiah, my great grandfather lived in Norwich several years. His three first children was born there. He removed from there to Woodford, Vermont. After a period of time he settled in Bennington, Vermont. The three children born in Norwich was Mary, my grandmother, Josiah Jr. And Lucy. My grandfather Mumford married his wife Mary Lawrence in Bennington. Five of those children were born there. He came to Monkton in the year 1791. My father was then 5 years old. And there were two of my grandmother's brothers came and settled here. Josiah Jr. And Diah, that is Almon Lawrence's father, about the year 1800. Experience came here in company with her brother Josiah and wife to visit the friends in this place. My father was telling me of some ocean voyage of hers and said that she has no fears when on the ocean as she was accustomed to the ocean. And that her father was a sea captain. He said that she was the daughter of Jonathan Lawrence and was her father's housekeeper until her father married Hannah Robbing. But he did not know who was the mother of Experience and Josiah and how can it be determined who was the first wife of Jonathan Lawrence. If tradition is excepted then there may be some chance for us that are descendants of the first marriage. Mrs. Brown of Gowanda, N.Y. his wife claims descent from William Lawrence, the youngest brother of Josiah. I must close for this time hoping to hear from you again.

Respectfully yours

Anna W. Day

me that his great grandfather Johnathan
Lawrence lived a good many years before
(he) was born & that Johnathan went
back to England & died there, Father
told me this same (35) years ago as he
understand it Johnathan (senr) came
to Bennington I had supposed that
John the Brother of Josiah settled at
Fickhill the same as Jacob, I don't know
of any that claim descent from John Lawrence
that lived & died at Bennington except
the wife of S^r Rich^d of Malone (Ct) I am
the daughter of Josiah Mumpord Josiah Mumpord
was the son of Mary Lawrence Mary
Lawrence Mumpord was the daughter
of Josiah Lawrence, Josiah Lawrence was

Letter from Mrs
A. W. Fay Monkton
Hedge Ct

the son of Johnathan Lawrence Johnathan
was a sea Captain, John Lawrence of
Bennington is son of Solomon Lawrence
the youngest child of Josiah Lawrence
you wish to know my age I am 63
years old I was born Oct. 19th 1822
Josiah Lawrence Birth must have been
in 1735, 151 years ago the present years as he
was (67) when he died in (1802) I cant tell who
were the older Samuel, S. or Joseph I think, I have
given you all the information that I can hoping
to hear from you again, Truly your Cousin
A. W. Fay
P. S. I am not personally acquainted
with John Lawrence of Bennington
But we are cousins

help in the matter in the least - Now
what is the best course for us to pursue
is a query to me that are some here
that are well they they will some spend
anything in this enterprise they believe
it to be all moonshine; But suppose
it is if it had not been agitated we
should some have known how many
relation we have or where they are my
great grand father (Josiah) (Lawrence)
married Mary Branch a widow in
Dorwich Conn. March 1761 I think my
father said that his grand father Josiah
Lawrence was born in Mass. But
could not tell in what town, Josiah
my G. G. Father, lived in Dorwich several
years, his three first children was born there
he removed from there to Woodford Vt. after
a period of time he settled in Bennington Vt.
after three children born in Dorwich was
Mary my grandmother, Josiah Jr & Lucy.
My grand father Mumpord married his
wife Mary Lawrence in Bennington, 5 of their
children were born there he then came to

Monkton in the year (1791) my Father was then
5 years old, & there were two of my Grandmothers Br-
thers came & settled near Jarvis Jr, & said that
is Almon Lawrence Father, About the year (1800)
Experein came here in Company with his Brother
Jarvis & wife to visit the friends in this place
my Father was telling of some Deien voice of hers
& said that she had so fears when on the Deien

as she was accustomed to the Deer
that her Father was a sea Captain he
said that she was the Daughter of
Johnathan Lawrence & was her Father's
Housekeeper untill her Father married
Hannah Kabbins But he did not know
who was the Mother of Experience & Josiah
& how can it be determined who was the
first wife of Johnathan Lawrence, if tradition
is excepted than that may Be some claim
for us that are descendants of the first Mar-
-riage you it seems one of the second ^{the} marriage
Mrs Brown of Jonanda Co, his wife
claims descent from William Lawrence the
youngest Brother of Josiah & must close
for this time hoping to hear from you
again respectfully yours

Anna M. Day

Copied By P. J. Lawrence
Feb, 18th 1886

THE CONSOLIDATED
Lawrence-Chase-Towneley Association
OF AMERICA

Executive:

President: WM. NORTHCOTE GEARE.
Vice-Pres.:—PROFESSOR VERNON.
Secretary:—STURGEON STEWART.

Trustees:

HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q.C., EX-VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ONT.
ERASTUS WIMAN, ESQ., (DUN, WIMAN & CO.,) NEW YORK
WM. H. HOWLAND, ESQ., MAYOR OF TORONTO.

Treasurer:—JOHN R. BARBER, PRES. TORONTO PAPER CO.

Canadian Solicitors:—BLAKE, LASH, CASSELS AND HOLMAN, TORONTO.

English Solicitors:—BISCHOFF, POMPOS, FOX & CO., LONDON, ENGLAND.

HEAD OFFICE: 21 Yonge Street Arcade,

Toronto, 5th & 6th

1886

P. J. Lawrence, Esq.

My dear Sir

Thanks for your note of Ten dollars
—the call seems very well responded to; but to make
it more certain, we have concluded to extend the
time to the 1st of Oct. Hon. S. H. Blake is home
I had 3 hours Conference with him on Saturday last
—he wishes to return again about the 15th Oct. — have
enclosed you two more notes, please see what you
can do with them. You wish information — of
course you are entitled to it, sorry I could not
have sent it to you before; but it will take 3 or 4
pages of writing to give you any thing of an understand-
ing of its present position. —

All that I am at liberty to tell you at present in regard
to Mr. Blake is that he reports every thing very satis-
factory for an early Settlement, and is anxious to get
back again by the middle of next month. — Am sorry
that this case has assumed such a shape, that we
are forced to keep back for the present its true
position. — There is no doubt that if the claimants
only knew its position, & ^{& certainly} all the facts connected therewith
(which we are compelled to withhold; that if we

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1888

wanted \$100,000. to complete it. it would be raised within a week: but this for the benefit of all the claimants we are debarred from now giving.

No doubt this whole matter will be soon settled by compromise. This Association has proofs of such vital importance that we can make our own terms: terms that cannot fail of being beneficial & satisfactory to every claimant. Thus you will see, we cannot endanger this golden opportunity.

Perhaps I may as well submit a few questions for you to seriously consider:

Why has this Association (which has only been in operation a little over a year) received from that opposition in England, who are wrongfully receiving the revenues of all these estates, every effort in their power to put us down & stop us?

Have they ever directed a blow towards any other Association although some investigating 10 times as long & having spent 100 times as much money?

Is it not, that no previous Association, have ever had any knowledge in the right direction, or of that moment that they have ever cared any ^{thing} for?

On the contrary, have they not known from our commencement that this Association, has facts & proofs that

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HEAD OFFICE: 21 Yonge Street Arcade,

Toronto,

1888

can stop them from ever getting another dollar from themselves besides making them disgorge every dollar they have fraudulently received for the last 46 years?

If this is now compromised, will not this important wire be retained & debased from those who do not join the Association?

Will they not be left in such a position that they will not get it?

Must not this Association, in a division, deal only with those who have joined this Association and got certificates of Membership?

Under these circumstances is it not the duty of all to join this Association; and all that are so well able, to assist financially those who are so honestly & ably working for their interests?

Why has this Association, enlisted & retained the interest & assistance of gentlemen of such high ~~reputation~~ world-wide reputation for honesty, integrity, and ability, compared with any previous enterprise?

Why has one Association, that has been prosecuting their financial interest for 15 years, spending a vast amount of money; determined that if ever they got their own, that they must join this Association, like they have done two weeks ago?

Yours Most Respectfully
William Northcote Geare, Pres.

Shall send you a duplicate of information known to all 59, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

From:
Susan
Peters

January 22, 1894.

Utica Morr
Herald

Jan 22 1894

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNELEY "ES- TATE."

"There Appears to Have Been a
Scandalous Fraud."

Before the queen's bench in London,
last week, a case was on trial in which
the subscribers to the Lawrence-Towne-
ley estate fund in this vicinity—their
heirs or assigns—will be interested.

The question before the court was
whether Solicitor Thomas should give a
bill of costs for the expenditure of over
\$75,000 entrusted to him by J. P. Jacques.
It incidentally appeared that Jacques had
gone to England in 1888 with \$80,000 in
money and a claim of one Lawrence of
Troy to the Towneley estates and \$70,
000,000 which had accumulated in the
English treasury. It appears that it was
actually entered for the recovery of the
estate, but no effort, apparently, was
made to get the seventy millions.
Thomas, the solicitor, carried the case up
to the house of lords, and it was finally
dismissed as frivolous and vexatious.
Revelations in the case just tried led Jus-
tice Mathew to say:

"There appears to have been a scandal-
ous fraud."

And Justice Collins declared:

"There is a question whether Jacques
is entitled to the assistance of this court,
that depends on whether Jacques was
a party to a gross fraud admitted by
Thomas to have been carried out by him.
The master has investigated the matter,
and is finding."

2
bill of costs for the expenditure of over \$75,000 incurred to him by J. B. Jaquess. It incidentally appeared that Jaquess had gone to England in 1888 with \$80,000 in money and a claim of one Lawrence of Troy to the Townley estate and \$70,000,000 which had accumulated in the English treasury. It appeared that he was actually ordered for the recovery of the estate, but no effort, apparently, was made to get the seven millions. Thomas, the collector, carried the case up to the house of lords and it was finally dismissed as frivolous and vexatious. Revelations in the case just tried led Justice Matthew to say:

"There appears to have been a scandalous fraud."

And Justice Collins declared:

"There is a question whether Jaquess is entitled to the assistance of this court. That depends on whether Jaquess was a party to a gross fraud admitted by Thomas to have been carried out by him. The master has investigated the matter, and I do not disagree with his finding. I could not take upon myself to say that Jaquess is fraudulent, but I am not certain that he is clear of fraud, and I should be sorry by my judgment to place any obstruction in the way of persons who may have any rights against Jaquess. It must not be thought that this court has absolved Jaquess from all suspicion of fraudulently combining with Thomas."

A dispatch to the New York Sun says Jaquess is living in Denbigh place, Pimlico, a shabby-genteel quarter of London. He says he was colonel of the 73d Illinois volunteers during the war, and was afterward an official in the post-office in Washington. His principal hope on earth now is that the English solicitor, Thomas, shall be made to disgorge some of the money which Jaquess has paid him. Here is the colonel's statement:

"I was asked to go into the case by Dr. Webb of Utica, N. Y., a friend of mine. He collected the necessary proofs of war-

~~John Webb of Ulster, N. Y.~~ ~~There is the colonel's statement~~
I was asked to go into the case by Dr. Webb of Ulster, N. Y. a friend of mine. He collected the positive proofs of war-
plage, and everything necessary to estab-
lish a claim to the Towneley estates, ob-
tained the opinion of eminent counsel—
Blako, Curran & Boyd of Toronto, and
others—and collected from many persons
money with which to carry on litigation.
Our documents show that John Lawrence
married Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir
Richard Towneley, in 1695. In 1807 there
was a failure of male issue in the Towne-
ley family, and the succession we claim
should have gone to Mary Towneley's de-
scendants. Dow Hager Lawrence, her
great great grandson, the present claim-
ant, is a poor ship carpenter in Troy. The
Towneley estate is in the possession of
Lord Forester, now the Earl of Abingdon,
who married a Towneley—nominally in
possession. The estate is of enormous
value. It includes a large part of the
manufacturing town of Burnley and sev-
eral coal mines. The statute of limita-
tions will put our case out of court un-
less we can prove there was fraud in
obtaining the property, which is what we
hope to do. When I came to England,
six years ago, we employed Howell
Thomas, an English solicitor. He took
all the papers, retained counsel, etc. The
case was dismissed by the House of Lords
two years ago, and we failed to obtain
permission to begin another suit, but the
language of the court led us to believe we
might succeed another time. But in the
mean time Thomas has obtained £70,000
from us and refused an accounting. This
is what we are trying to obtain. He has
seven witnesses, with six months
and we do not know where he is now. He
has many important papers. Thomas in-
formed me that the sum of \$70,000 £00
accumulated income of the estate, was in
the treasury. I have not been able to as-
certain that yet.
To all this it may be added that

The following article appearing in the Utica, New York Morning Herald dated January 22, 1894, was sent to me by Susan Peters, Ontario, Canada June, 2002.

THE LAWRENCE/TOWNLEY ESTATE

“There appears to have been a Scandalous Fraud”

Before the queen's bench in London last week, a case was on trial in which the subscribers to the Lawrence/Townley estate fund in this vicinity- their heirs or assigns- will be interested. The question before the court was whether Solicitor Thomas should give a bill of costs for the expenditures of over \$75,000 entrusted to him by J. F. Jaques. It incidentally appeared that Jaques had gone to England in 1886 with \$80,000 in money and a claim of one Lawrence of Troy to the Townley estates and \$70,000,000 which had accumulated in the English treasury. It appears suit was actually entered for the recovery of the estate, but no effort apparently was made to get the 70 millions. Thomas, the solicitor, carried the case up to the House of Lords, and it was dually dismissed as frivolous and vexatious. Revelations in the case just tried led Justice Matthews to say:

“There appears to have been a scandalous fraud.” Justice Collins declared: “There is a question whether Jaques is entitled to the assistance of this court. That depends on whether Jaques was a party to a gross fraud admitted by Thomas to have been carried out by him. The master has investigated the matter and I do not disagree with his finding. I could not take upon myself to say that Jaques is fraudulent, but I am not certain that he is clear of fraud and I should be sorry by my judgment to place any obstruction in the way of persons who may have any right as against Jaques. It must not be thought that this court has absolved Jaques from all suspicion of fraudulently combining with Thomas.”

A dispatch to the New York Sun says: “Jaques is living in Denhigh place, Pimlico, a shabby-genteel quarter of London. He says he was colonel of the 730th Illinois volunteers during the war, and was afterward, an official in the post office in Washington. His principal hope on earth now is that the English solicitor Thomas shall be made to disgorge some of the money which Jaques has paid him. Here is the colonel's statement:

"I was asked to go into the case by Dr. Webb of Utica, New York, a friend of mine. He collected the pedigree proofs of marriage and everything to establish a claim to the Townley estates, obtained the opinion of eminent counsel- Blake, Curran and Boyd of Toronto, and others- and collected from many persons money with which to carry on litigation. Our documents show that John Lawrence married Mary Townley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley, in 1695. In 1807 there was a failure of male issue in the Townley family, and the succession we claim should have gone to Mary Townley's descendants. (Dow Haiser) Lawrence, her great, great grandson, the present claimant, is a poor _____ in Troy. The Townley estate is in the possession of Lord Torreys, now Earl of Abingdon, who married a Townley nominally in possession. The estate is of enormous value. It includes a large part of the manufacturing town of Burnley and several coal mines. The statute of limitations will put our case out of court unless we can prove there was fraud in obtaining the property which is what we propose to do. When I came to England six years ago, we employed Howell Thomas, an English Solicitor. He took all the papers, retained counsel, etc. The case was dismissed by the House of Lords two years ago and we failed to obtain permission to begin another suit but the language of the court led us to believe we might succeed another time. But in the meantime Thomas has obtained \$75,000 from us and refused an accounting. This is what we are trying to obtain. He has seven addresses within six months and we do not know where he is now. He has many important papers. Thomas informed me that the sum of \$70,000,000 accumulated income of the estate was in the treasury. I have not been able to ascertain that yet. To all this it may be added that the....

COPIED FROM THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL, DOUBLIN

Friday, February 1st, 1886

Enormous fortune lies buried in the Court of Chancery, amounting to 100,000,000 pounds, which really belongs to the people, including all classes of the community from the Peer to the Peasant. The Chancery paymaster will be only too glad to pay the money to the rightful owners if they will put in their claims. There are thousands of people walking about at the present moment who are quite unconscious of the fact that a fortune has descended to them from remote ancestors and because they have no knowledge of these ancestors they take no interest in what is really of vital importance to them. We earnestly entreat everyone to send to Messrs Cox & company, 41 Southampton Building, _____ London, and obtain their list of Christian and surnames in full of the 50,000 persons to whom all this vast wealth belong. The price is 1 shilling, 6 pence, (Postal Order) and if they find their names as those of English ancestors, they should obey the instructions it contains. A fortune may await them. Among the list of names we find the names of Lawrence, Chase, and Townley.

The Lord William Widdrington Estate, lands and mines near Newcastle as indicated on the map by a cluster of towns and villages such as Ritusin, Clayton, Williston, Stella, and Stanley. Corby Castle parish of ----- miles from Carlisle is the ancient seat of the Howard family. By the marriage of Dorothy Townley to Francis Howard and by will of said Francis Howard to his wife Dorothy, who, dying without issue, willed her entire estate to her sister Mary and her heirs in America= Townley Hall, the representation center of the Lawrence Townley Estate, is in the keeping of the English government until proper heirs in America shall prove legitimate right and title. The courts have decided in favor of the heirs of John Lawrence and Mary his wife.

Favorable legal opinion have been given upon the case by the following persons viz: Sir William H. G. Collis, English Chancery Honorable Edward Blake, Minister to Japan from Canada, Hon. Caleb Cushing, U. S. Minister, etc, Shaleilter, Wright and Wheatley, Liverpool England, M. P. Dickerson, Esq., Boston, Massachusetts and other eminent counsel in England are now engaged in the case.

Taken from the Freeman's Journal
(Doubtless Monday & Tuesday Feb 1-1846)

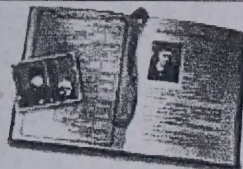
Esq. many factories & mills. Buried in the heart of
Chancery, amounting to £100,000,000, which really
belongs to the people, including all classes of the community
from the poor to the baron, the Chancery Pyromaniacs will
be only too glad to pay the money to the right full owner
if they will put in their claims. There are thousands
of people working about at the present moment who
are quite unconscious of the fact that a fortune has
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them. We earnestly entreat everyone to send to Messrs
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the 50,000 persons to whom all these vast wealth
belongs, Price 18-6p (Postpaid order), & if they find their
names as those of Eng. ancestors, they should obey
the instructions it contains, & Fortune may
await them, among the list of names we
find the names of Lawrence Shaw & Lowny.

P. J. Lawrence Minelago Jk

The Lord William Miffington Estate
Lands & Mines near Newcastle as indicated
upon the map by the Cluster of Towns or
villages viz. Rithum, Blayton, Millerton, Stedla
& Stanly, their Estate came into the Family
by the Marriage of Lady Mary Miffington to
Richard Townley, Esq. Castle, Parish of Wetherby
6 Miles from Castle is the ancient Seat of the
Howard Family by the Marriage of Donatus Townley
to Francis Howard; & by will of said Francis Howard
to his wife Dorothy; who dying without issue, willed
his entire Estate to her Sister Mary & her heirs
in America; Townley "Hall" the representation
Centre of the Laurens Townley Estate, is in the
keeping of the English Government until Proper
heirs in America shall prove legitimate rights
& title; the Courts having Decided in favor of
the heirs of John Laurens & Mary his
wife."

Honorable Legal Opinion have
been given upon the Case by the
following Persons viz. Sir William "H. J. Colles
English Chancery Baron, Edward Blake, Minister
to France from Canada; Hon. Caleb Cushing
U. S. Minister, Etc; Shalister, Wright & Wheatley
Liverpool England; M. P. Fiskerson Esq. Boston
Mass, ~~Attorneys~~ Counsel in England
are also engaged in the Case

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Descendants of John Lawrence

Generation No. 2

2. PELEG² LAWRENCE (**JOHN¹, HENRY^A, JOHN^B, JOHN^C, JOHN^D, ROBERT^E, JOHN^F, THOMAS^G, JOHN^H, NICHOLAS^I, ROBERT^J, ROBERT^K, JOHN^L, JOHN^M, JAMES^N, ROBERT^O, ROBERT^P**)
^{48,49,50,51,52,53,54} was born 10 Jan 1646/47 in Watertown, Middlesex, MA^{55,56}, and died 14 Feb 1692/93 in Groton, Middlesex, MA. He married ELIZABETH MORSE⁵⁷ 22 Dec 1668 in Medfield/Groton, Middlesex, MA^{58,59}, daughter of JOSEPH MORSE and HANNAH PHILLIPS. She was born 01 Sep 1647^{60,61}, and died 12 Jun 1715⁶².

Notes for PELEG LAWRENCE:

Of Concord and Groton, MA; was a selectman

His wife, Elizabeth Morse, was a sister of his brother, Nathaniel's wife Sarah.

The Lineage Book of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Vol XVII - 1928 - p. 95 & VOL XXXI -1958 - p. 218 show Peleg's birth date as 10, January 1647/1648. The Lineage Book of National Society Vol VI - 1916 shows birth date of 11 November 1647.

Lawrence, Peleg, 1646-1692, Groton, Mass. Served in a Garrison House during trouble with the Indians, King Philip's War.

Growing in-line library, genealogy library.com, "Electronic," New England Families Genealogical and Memorial: third Series, Vol IV, 1998, " He lived in Concord during the period that Groton was abandoned during King Philip's War, but returned to his former at Groton afterward. He was selectman for two years and held various other offices, He lived on the farm now or lately owned by Samuel B. Marshall, on the Boston road."

Two other of John's sons, Peleg and Enosh lived at Groton and had families.

Early Records of Groton, pg 64;

" in groton 16 June 1681 thar is layed for Palig Loranc and ajoying too and bounding upon

the south by swan pond meadow Eleuen acers and a half lauing Rome Round his meadow
acordin too Town order and bounded upon other sids by the Comon

also 8 ayte ackers and a halfe a litil distant northword and bounded on all sides by comon
land the lins being extant by marked trees and stakes

This too parsils of land ware layd by me John fflint

Recorded by me JOHN Mors, Clarke

This aboue written of Peleg Lawrances land by Agreement is by Peleg Laurance
relinquished & yeild to Mr. Hobart; March 8th 1681/2 in ye presence of ye select men"

Early Records of Groton, pg 183;

THE LANDS OF PELLEG LAWRANCE.

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on the north side of Spedteckle Pond, bounded on all
poynts by the towne's comon.

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on by the Cowpond Meadow, bounded east by the lands
of Nathaniel Lawrence, and on all other poynts by the town's comon.

Notes for ELIZABETH MORSE:

Her sister Sarah Morse married Peleg Lawrence's brother Nathaniel.

Another source incorrectly says daughter of John Morse.

Marriage Notes for PELEG LAWRENCE and ELIZABETH MORSE:

John Lawrence, Gen. Memoirs of the Family of John Lawrence of Watertown (1847, 1857 &
1876), pg 19, 1847 ver, In the Inventory of 1695 Daniel and Susanna are named as
children of Peleg Lawrence. He died in Groton, 1692, aged 45 years.

Children of PELEG LAWRENCE and ELIZABETH MORSE are:

6. i. MAJOR ELEAZER³ LAWRENCE, b. 28 Feb 1674/75, Groton,
Middlesex, MA; d. 09 Mar 1754, Pepperill, Middlesex, MA.
- ii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE, b. 09 Jan 1668/69, Groton, MA⁶³; d. 10 Oct
1685⁶⁴.
7. iii. SAMUEL LAWRENCE, b. 16 Oct 1671, Groton, MA; d. Mar 1711/12,
Killingly, Connecticut.
8. iv. JONATHAN LAWRENCE, b. 29 Mar 1679.
- v. ABIGAIL LAWRENCE, b. 06 Oct 1681^{65,66}.
- vi. JEREMIAH LAWRENCE, b. 03 Jan 1686/87^{67,68}; d. 26 Apr 1687.
- vii. JOSEPH LAWRENCE, b. 12 Jun 1688, Groton, MA^{69,70,71}.

Notes for JOSEPH LAWRENCE:

Went to Connecticut before 1712 and settled in Plainfield

viii. DANIEL LAWRENCE⁷².

ix. SUSANNA LAWRENCE⁷³, m. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, 1710⁷⁴.

Notes for SUSANNA LAWRENCE:
named in father's will

3. DEACON NATHANIEL² LAWRENCE (JOHN¹, HENRY^A, JOHN^B, JOHN^C, JOHN^D, ROBERT^E, JOHN^F, THOMAS^G, JOHN^H, NICHOLAS^I, ROBERT^J, ROBERT^K, JOHN^L, JOHN^M, JAMES^N, ROBERT^O, ROBERT^P)^{75,76} was born 15 Oct 1639 in Watertown, Middlesex, MA^{77,78,79}, and died 14 Apr 1724 in Lexington, Ma^{80,81}. He married (1) SARAH MORSE 13 Mar 1660/61 in Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁸², daughter of JOSEPH MORSE and HANNAH PHILLIPS. She was born 16 Jul 1643⁸³, and died 29 Aug 1681^{84,85}. He married (2) HANNAH(ANNA)⁸⁶ Bef. 1683. She died Aft. 14 Jan 1700/01. He married (3) SARAH 31 Oct 1695⁸⁷.

Notes for DEACON NATHANIEL LAWRENCE:

According to Daughters of the American Colonists Lineage Book Vol1 page 365, Nathaniel Lawrence (1639-1724) was ensign of militia and member of the General Court, 1692. He died in Groton, Ma.

adm. freeman 15, May 1672

American Ancestry has death in Lexington and LDS has Stoneham.

Moved in advanced years to Charlestown Farms.

Nathaniel was an original proprietor of Groton having a ten-acre right. He held various offices in the church and town, and was one of the first representatives to the General Court, under the charter of William and Mary, in the year 1693. Three of his grandsons, Thomas, William and Amos, came from Lexington to Groton to live.

Notes for SARAH MORSE:

Her sister Elizabeth Morse married Nathaniel Lawrence's brother Peleg.

Children of NATHANIEL LAWRENCE and SARAH MORSE are:

- i. NATHANIEL³ LAWRENCE, b. 04 Apr 1661, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁸⁸; d. 1737; m. (1) HANNAH RUTTER, Abt. 1682, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁸⁹; m. (2) ANNA FISKE, Abt. 1689, Groton/Sudbury⁹⁰.

Notes for NATHANIEL LAWRENCE:

His father's will dated 4 Aug. 1718, proved 8 May 1724, gave Nathaniel land in Groton.

The Genealogies & Estates of Charlstown:

m. Hannah Rutter - issue

i Nathaniel b. Feb. 1677

ii Hannah, b. Apr. 26 1687

iii Mary, Oct.16,1690

iv Susanna a. 1691; m. Samuel Page, 1719

v Jonathan, June 14, 1696

vi Sarah, Elisha Tottingham, 1736

- ii. SARAH LAWRENCE, b. 01 Jan 1662/63, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA⁹¹.
- iii. HANNAH LAWRENCE, b. 03 Jul 1664, Groton, Middlesex, MA⁹²; m. STEPHEN HOLDEN.
- 9. iv. JOHN LAWRENCE, b. 29 Jul 1667, Groton, Middlesex, MA; d. 12 Mar 1746/47, Lexington, MA.
- v. MARY LAWRENCE, b. 03 Mar 1669/70⁹²; m. ZEBADIAH WHEELER.
- vi. SARAH LAWRENCE, b. 16 May 1672⁹²; m. SAMUEL PAGE.

Notes for SARAH LAWRENCE:

Sarah was probably the first wife of Samuel Page, who in 1714, then of South Carolina, married Sarah Sanderson. As she d. before her father, she was not mentioned in his will, but her surviving husband.

- vii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE⁹², b. 06 Sep 1674⁹²; d. 20 Oct 1675.
- viii. ELIZABETH LAWRENCE⁹², m. ABNER HARRIS, 20 Nov 1709⁹³.

Notes for ELIZABETH LAWRENCE:

m. (pub in Boston, 20 Nov 1709) Abner Harris of Medford

Children of NATHANIEL LAWRENCE and HANNAH(ANNA) are:

- ix. DEBORAH³ LAWRENCE⁹⁴, b. 24 Mar 1682/83; m. PETER TUFTS; b. 1678.
- x. HANNAH LAWRENCE⁹⁵, b. 26 Apr 1687; d. 1735; m. STEPHEN HOLDEN.

Notes for STEPHEN HOLDEN:

married Samuel Holden, will identifies as dau. Hannah Houlden

- xi. MARY LAWRENCE⁹⁶, b. 16 Oct 1690⁹⁷; m. ZEBADIAH WHEELER.
- xii. JONATHAN LAWRENCE, b. 14 Jun 1696^{98,99}.

Notes for JONATHAN LAWRENCE:

John Lawrence, Gen. Memoirs of the Family of John Lawrence of Watertown (1847, 1857 & 1876), pg 19, ver 1849, Jonathan, b. June 14, 1696. Lived in Charlestown, and probably in Stoneham.

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Experience Lawrence m. Jabez Keay (Westford, MA)

Tryphena Lawrence m. Jonas Lawrence (cousin.) Canaan, Ct.

Descendants claim they were from the Townley family through Jonathan Lawrence, son to John Lawrence and Mary Townley, daughter of his Richard Townley and sister to Dorothy Townley of Lancashire.

Will of Major Eleazer Lawrence - Liber 27 of Wills p. 270 Cambridge Ma.

Dec 9, 1749 Hittlet.

... Mary, wife

Sons 1. Beleg

2. Jonathan

3. David

4. Eleazer

5. Samuel

} 5 shillings + parts of estate.

for David
Executor

Daughters 1. Elizabeth Buttrick (deceased) heirs 20 shillings

2. Mary Fletcher

3. Sarah Cummings } 20 shillings

4. Experience Keay

5. Sandra Barber

The above shows conclusively that Experience Lawrence was the daughter of Major Eleazer Lawrence of Hittlet, Mass. and not the daughter of Jonathan Lawrence and Mary Townley. Maj. Eleazer b. in Groton Ct.

Mass. 28 Feb. 1674.

He was the son of Beleg L. (1054 D. 1676/77) in Watertown, Mass. and married 1667, Eliz. Morse, settling in Groton, Mass.

The grandfather of Maj. Eleazer was John Lawrence of Watertown. Maj. Eleazer m. Mary Desjardine, daughter of Samuel and Eliz. Desjardine of Groton, b. 07 Feb. 1680

Children: 1. Eleazer m. Mary Buttrick 25 Jan 1731

2. Elizabeth 28 Feb 1699

3. Beleg 1 Jun. 1701

4. Jonathan 4 Oct 1703 m. Tryphena Lawrence

5. David 26 Dec 1705

6. Mary -

2. Sarah —

8. Samuel 2 May 1714

9. Experience 22 Jan. 1719 - m. 3 Apr. 1740 John, Keap

10. Bridget 7 Apr. 1722

Experience was the aunt of Tryphine Lawrence, wife of Jonas and daughter of Jonathan.

A few of the descendants of Experience Lawrence have insisted that the will of their ancestor May. Elizer L. is a forgery and that the late Hon. Abbott Lawrence, while minister of this Republic to the Court of Great Britain, caused certain gravestones to be taken from the graveyard at Boston, and transferred to England, by means of which he secured to himself, through parties in England, a large sum of money. "This ridiculously false statement would not find a place here were it not for the fact that a few have influenced many to believe it to be the truth." The proof ~~is in the~~ of genuineness of the documents can be found in the Probate Office of Cambridge, Mass. where they are part of the record and under custody of officials.

Lawrence Genealogy (Rev. John Lawrence of Cambridge, Mass.)

Other Branches of Lawrence Family

John, Thomas or Wm. of Long Island or to John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass.

Thom Ruth re. Jonathan etc.

John Lawrence b. 3/2/1746 m. Mary Cleveland
d. 10/27/1825

①

Jonathan L. Sr b. 10/4/1703 m. Tryphena Powers
d. 12/8/1789 m. Lydia Fletcher

his sister, Experience m. Jacob Keef

Elizabeth was insistent that her father was not Cleaver
b. 22 Jan 1719 d. 9 Mar 1754

(Cleaver, Keef, John)

claimed that Grandfather Cleaver's will was a forgery.
will made out 29 Dec. 1749

Recorded Liber 27 Mills, p 270
Cambridge, MASS.

Other descendants lived in La ad N.Y. spent \$
chasing the Lawrence-Townsend Estate.

Margie Lawrence Henninga
genealogy

1. Josiah L. Jr.

2. Jonathan Norwich m. Gerrish Bromley
13 Apr 1736 29 Aug. 1759

children: Ruben L. 23 Jun 1760
Lydia L. 15 Jan 1762
Joanna L. 31 May 1765

3. Samuel L. b. 5 Jan 1739/39 Norwich Town Records. m. Thankful Cady
children: Hannah L. 27 Nov. 1766
Solomon L. 14 Sep. 1767

4. Mary L. b. 28 Apr 1741 Norwich Town Records

5. Hannah L. 23 Jul. 1743

6. John Lawrence 19 Feb 1745/46 New London, Norwich CT. m. Mary Cleveland
Town Records

children: Ruth, Lill, Lydia, Sarah, Mary, John Jr.

John Jr. m. Susannah Stanton 14 Feb. 1807
b. 23 Apr. 1791 Fownal, VT.

Samuel b. 11 Dec. 1788

Alice L. m. Wager (in father's will)

Jonathan L. Sr. b. < 1663 m. Rebecca Pralter
5 Mar. 1679

Mechoniah L. b. 9 Jan. 1657/58 Watertown m. Abigail

Gen. 13 - Cynthia Mader
m.

Gen 13 - Bryan Mader
m.

Gen 13 - Jessie Jane Kimberly Jackson

John Lawrence

John Lawrence

1667

m. Elizabeth Morse

(Peter Lawrence served in a Garrison House during trouble with the Indians, King Phillips War)

1646/47 - 1892

b. 28 Feb. 1674

1. Major Eleazer - b. Watertown, MA

m. Mary Scripture

b. 02 Feb 1680

d. 9 Mar. 1754

Children: Eleazer Jr m Lucy Tuttle

2. Elizabeth - 28 Feb 1699

3. Peter 1 JUN 1701

4. Jonathan 4 OCT 1703 m. Tryphena Powers

5. David 26 Dec 1705

6. Mary

7. Sarah

8. Samuel 2 May 1714

9. Experience 22 JUN 1719

10. Prudence 7 Apr. 1722

2. Elizabeth Lawrence

b. 09 JAN 1669/69

d. 10 OCT. 1685

3. Samuel Lawrence

b. 16 OCT 1671

d. MAR 1711/12 Killingly, CT.

4. Jonathan Lawrence

b. 29 MAR 1679

ADDENDUM TO THE SECOND GENERATION OF AMERICAN LAWRENCES- FAMILY OF JOHN LAWRENCE-ELIZABETH

Peleg Lawrence

Born in Watertown, Middlesex, Massachusetts 10 January 1646(47) and died 14 February 1692(93) in Groton, Massachusetts. He married Elizabeth Morse 22 December 1668 in Medfield/Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts, daughter of Joseph Morse and Hannah Phillips. She was born 01 September, 1647 and died 12 June 1715.

Peleg's wife, Elizabeth Morse, was a sister of his brother Nathaniel's wife Sarah. The Lineage Book of the National Society of Daughters of Founders and Patroits of America, Volume XVII - 1928 - p. 95 and Volume XXXI - 1958 - p.218 show Peleg's birth date as 10 January 1647/1648. Volume VI - 1916 shows a birth date of 11 November 1647. Peleg Lawrence served in a Garrison House during trouble with the Indians, King Phillip's War.

Growing in-lin library, genealogy library.com, "Electronic," New England Families Genealogical and Memorial:third Series, Vol IV, 1998, "He lived in Concord during the period that Groton was abandoned during King Phillip's War, but returned to his former at Groton Afterward. He was selectman for two years and held various other offices. He lived on the farm now or lately owned by Samuel B. Marshall, on the Boston road"

Early records of Groton, Pg 64:

"in groten 16 June 1681 thar is layed for Palig Loranc and ajoying too and bounding upon the south by swan pond meadow Eleuen acers and a half lauing Rome Round his medow acordin too Town order and bounded upon other sids by the Comon

allso 8 ayte ackers and a halfe a litil distant northword and bounded on all sides by comon land the lins being extant by marked trees and stakes

This too parsils of land ware layd by me John fflint

Recorded by me JOHN Mors, Clarke

This aboue written of Peleg Lawrances land by Agreement is by Peleg Laurance relinquished & yield to Mr. Hobart; March 8th 1681/2 in ye presence of ye select men"

Early records of Groton, pg 183

THE LANDS OF PELLEG LAWRENCE

1. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on the north side of Spedteckle Pond, bounded on all points by the towne's comon.
2. Ten acres, more or lesse, lyeing on by the Cowpond Medow, bounded east by the lands of Nathaniel Lawrance, and on all other poynts by the town's comon.

Deacon Nathaniel Lawrence

Born 15 October 1639 in Watertown, Middlesex, Maine and died 14 April 1724 in Lexington Maine. He married Sarah Morse 13 March 1660 in Sudbury, Middlesex, Maine, daughter of Joseph Morse and Hannah Phillips, born 16 July 1643 and died 29 August 1681. He married Hannah (Anna) Before 1683. She died after 14 January 1700(01). He married Sarah 31 October 1695

According to Daughters of the American Colonists Lineage book, Volume 1 page 365, Nathaniel Lawrence (1639-1724) was ensign of militia and member of the General Court, 1692. He died in Groton, Maine.

American Ancestry has death listed in Lexington and the Mormons have death in Stoneham.

He moved in advanced years to Charlestown Farms.

Nathaniel was an original proprietor of Groton having a ten-acre right. He held various offices in the church and town, and was one of the first representatives to the General Court, under the charter of William and Mary, in the year 1693. Three of his grandsons, Thomas, William and Amos, came from Lexington to Groton to live.

Third Generation Descendants of Peleg Lawrence and Elizabeth Morse

1. Major Eleazer Lawrence, b. 28 February 1674/75, Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts; d. 9 March 1754, Pepperill, MA.
2. Elizabeth Lawrence, b. 9 January 1668/69, Groton, MA. d. 10 October 1685.
3. Samuel Lawrence, b. 16 October 1671, Groton, MA.; d. March 1711/12, Killingly, Connecticut.
4. Jonathan Lawrence, b. 29 March 1679
5. Abigail Lawrence, b. 6 October 1681
6. Jeremiah Lawrence, b. 3 January 1686/87; d. 26 April 1687
7. Joseph Lawrence, b. 12 June 1688, Groton, MA.
(Went to Connecticut before 1712 and settled in Plainfield)
8. (Daniel Lawrence)
9. (Susanna Lawrence, m. Joseph Williams, 1710)

The latter 2 children are listed in one source as belonging to Peleg

THIRD GENERATION, CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL LAWRENCE AND SARAH MORSE

1. Nathaniel Lawrence, b. 4 April 1661, Sudbury Middlesex, MA.; d. 1737; married (1) Hannah Rutter, About 1682, Sudbury, Middlesex, MA.; married Anna Fiske, about 1689, Groton/Sudbury.
2. Sarah Lawrence, b. 1 January 1662(63), Sudbury, Middlesex, MA.
3. Hannah Lawrence, b. 3 July 1664, Groton, Middlesex, MA. married

Stephen Holden

4. John Lawrence, b 29 July 1667, Groton, Middlesex, MA. d. 12 March 1746/47, Lexington, MA.
5. Mary Lawrence, b. 3 March 1669/70; married Zebadiah Wheeler
6. Sarah Lawrence b. 16 May 1672; married Samuel Page
7. Elizabeth Lawrence, b. 6 September 1674; d. 20 October 1675
8. Elizabeth Lawrence, Married Abner Harris, 20 November 1709

There is always a question of authenticity since the ancestry frequently depends upon other input than recorded data. This second and third generation seems to have a foundation in written records so perhaps is somewhat more likely than that given previously.

- Stephen J. Holden
1. John Lawrence, b. 29 July 1865, Clinton, Middlesex, MA, d. 12 March 1945, Lexington, MA.
 2. Mary Lawrence, b. 2 March 1868/70, married Elizabeth Wheeler.
 3. Sarah Lawrence, b. 16 May 1872, married Samuel F. Lee.
 4. Elizabeth Lawrence, b. 2 September 1874, d. 30 October 1972.
 5. Elizabeth Lawrence, married Albert (Laurie) Lawrence 1909.

There is always a question of authority since the accuracy frequently depends upon other more than recorded data. This record and this question seems to have a foundation in written records as far as is ascertainable more likely than the given previously.

Baltimore MD.
October 3, 1886

Mr. John Lawrence
Bennington, VT.

Dear Sir:

Anything printed or said in relation to the Townley family has very little effect with me and particularly so if it comes from J. P. Janque(s) who in my judgment is thoroughly ignorant of the genealogy and past history of the Townley family. About a year ago and a half this same party stated in the same publication that Mary Townley died at the age of 12 years and that no Mary Townley ever came to this country. Since then I have discovered to the contrary and have found a portrait of the lady herself which was painted about 1714 and brought here with herself and husband. You must expect many similar saying in the public print which to my mind are in acting with a view of drawing forth a reply and profiting by what endeavor others have received. This, of course would be a cheap way to obtain information which they lack and would like to have. My course is and has been since I began to keep my own counsel and persevere strictly in the direction my search leads me. I frankly admit that this is nothing but a search of discovery, so to speak, begun in consequence of certain revelation maps to my family by one of its members in the year 1797. I believe that she knew what she talks and since I began I have met with nothing but what confirms her statement. On the other side I have done nothing of personal investigation but have devoted myself to obtaining a thorough knowledge of the history of the Townley family and if John Lawrence married Mary Townley, the estate and honor of the family belong by right to her descendants. The estate called by so many names at different (times) I take to mean Townley Hall and its accompanying property. Concerning this, there has been much said that probably was highly exaggerated, or woefully or ignorantly mistaken. I am in hopes to know sometime just what the facts are in all respects. I know now this much: in about 1805 the last lineal descendant of the Townley family died. At that time the government took some action in the matter and a great part of the Townley library was sold of Evans Auction Rooms in London. There was two sales, one occupying 10 pages, the other 7 pages. Now as nearly as I can remember without having my papers by me, it was about 1814 that Periguin (/) Edward Townley of the house of Standish, took the Townley Hall estate entail, there being no heirs. P. E. Townley married Charlotte Theresa who was the fourth daughter of Robert Drummond of Coland Hunt (?). How much of the estate he took or what (understanding?) he may have had with the English government I know not. But that he occupied Townley Hall there is no question, although he had no right nor title. If other heirs were in existence as was so in this case- If as I have said John Lawrence married Mary Townley, P.E. Townley died in 1846 Leaving him two sons, Col. Charles and Col. John Townley and whatever property he possessed at his decease went to his son Col. Charles, who was eldest in line col. Charles Townley of the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia, was born in June 1808. He was trustee of British museum and high sheriff of Lancashire in 1848. And in 1853 was elected member of Parliament from (Sligo). He married November 20th, 1836, Lady Caroline Harriet Molyner, daughter of William Phillips, 2nd Earl of Sexton by whom (he died February 8, 1866) he had three daughters: Caroline

Lawiea, who married July 10, 1858 Montague Arthur , Lar(?) married eldest son of the Earl of Abbingdon. She died September 4th 1873. Emily Frances, who married August 6th, 1868, Lord Alexander Jordan Lennox and Alice Mary who married August 2nd, 1871 Thomas Lord O'Hagan of Ireland. Col. Charles Townley left no Male heirs, he died I think in 1875 and was succeeded by his brother Col. John Townley formally of parliament from Bernley. Col. John married Lucy Ellen, youngest daughter of the late Sir Joseph Fishbourne Bart. By her he had 4 daughters, only one of whom married. Col. John died February 21st, 1877 leaving a will, a copy of which I have but not by me. He left no male heirs so that with the death of Col. John Townley in 1877 expired the last of the male lineal collateral of the Lancashire Townley Hall family as far as Great Britain concerned, but not as far as this country is concerned by a long ways. Whatever descended to the daughter of Col. Charles and Col. John Townley, they did not obtain until 1881 and what they obtained as under what conditions they obtained, I do not know. Townley Hall is at present occupied by Lord Norr---this alone you may rely upon as being correct. It can be received by the heirs of Mary Townley who married John Lawrence. This is plain common sense and moreover it is law. There are those who say that Perigwin Edward Townley did not inherit Townley Hall nor the land surrounding it, but was only granted leave to occupy the premises and they also state that in the will of P.E. Col. Charles and Col. John Townley there is no mention made of any of the real estate and that not one rod of it is given away. I do not know how this is simply because I have not been there to ascertain. Thus far I have spoken only of the estate, on which Townley Hall, the original home of the Townley family is located. But now I will say a few words more concerning an estate that must have been referred to by my ancestor when she made her confession in 1794. And it is this estate I have been especially interested in working for. Dorothy Townley, sister to Mary, married Francis Howard of Corby in Cumberland. She willed his entire property to his wife Dorothy, this will is on file in the Somerset House in the city of London. Mr. Les Wheeler, No. 387 Superior ST., Chicago, Illinois has seen this will. He has also seen on file in the British Museum in London, a copy of the paper containing the original and first advertisement for the heirs in America. I am informed upon authority that I cannot dispute except upon investigation I should find otherwise, that Dorothy Townley willed her entire estate to her sister Mary who had married John Lawrence. This property must originally have been extensive and from the natural accumulation would today amount to a very large sum. This undoubtedly was the property Mary Stevens refers to in 1794. Because then, the Townley Hall property did not cease to have a lineal heir until subsequent to 1800. There is another property that came into the Townley family through the marriage of Lord Widdrington, to Richard Townley about 1710. Not having my papers at hand, I cannot quote you exact dates. Lady Mary Widdrington Estate came to her from her father, Lord William Widdrington of Northumberland. He settled a large portion of his property upon his daughter at the time of her marriage with Richard Townley, with a stipulation that her husband should have nothing whatever to do with it. These alone are matters of fact in history and can be easily proved. Many who profess to know, state that they have seen the documentary evidence by which Lady Mary (Widdrington) Townley willed a portion of her vast estate to Mary Townley, wife of John Lawrence, in America. Now since the will above mentioned, was drawn many generations have passed away and it is not to be supposed

that the government ever told any more than it was obliged to concerning this property that is a matter they would be likely to keep quiet about and the facts can be gotten at only when a descent from Mary Townley can be clearly shown. Then a claim can be made by such descendants for their right in the premises. I have been informed by authority, that is beyond question, that if there were more heirs beyond the sea at the time P. E. Townley took the Townley Hall Estate entail, and if the wills alone mentioned are a stated, that there will be no great trouble in securing legal possession of the property provided evidence of the marriage of Mary Townley to John Lawrence and the existence of her descendants can be clearly shown. One great difficulty in my work has been that there have been so many great English Estate palmed off on unsuspecting bullies(?) and that really so little is known concerning this one- even by those who have investigated it. If those interested would only stick to one thing first, find out from that second and get that straight first, they would be doing what they should have done a long time ago. Hon. Beverly Johnson while minister to England looked into this matter. He reported to the persons who told me, that there was an unclaimed Estate, the person who gave me this information is unimpeachable veracity and what I have stated can be corroborated at any time. I quote now Joyner statement "Lord John Townley Estate in 1740 and Mary Townley Lawrence Estate, never existed. This is the first time I have ever of a Lord John Townley or a Mary Townley Lawrence "estate." Whoever did hear of this I don't suppose that any particular House has been given to the property we are seeking, it may be entered upon the government books in one of half dozen different forms. But for convenience and because the people in this country do not know the correct name for the property, they are in search of, it has been called at various times, the Townley, The Townley-Chase, the Townley-Williams and the Townley-Stevens Estate. Just as it suited the fancy of those who have been interested. I have sent you the letter because I want you to understand something of what the facts are as the items I have above quoted is going the rounds of the newspapers. It will undoubtedly have a tendency to discount many ignorant of the merits of the case and who are too prone to jump at anything the newspapers report, But newspapers are very troublesome and print great deal about meaning of which they care.

Mr John Lawrence Baltimore Md
 Berminston Oct-3rd 1916
 Vermont
 Dear Sir

Anything printed or said in relation to the
 Lounly family has very little effect with me
 & Particular so if it comes from J P Jonings
 who in my judgement is thoroughly ignorant
 of the genealogy & past history of the Lounly
 family, about a year ago & half the same
 party stated in the same publication that
 Mary Lounly died at the age of 12 years & that Miss
 Lounly Emie came to this country sooner
 than I have discovered to the contrary & in
 giving a portrait of the lady herself
 which was painted about 1844 & brought
 near with herself & husband, you must expect
 many singular things in those Bible Print
 which to my mind are in acting with a
 view of drawing points & reply & profiting
 by what ever others have secured, this
 of course would be a cheap way to obtain
 information which they lack & would like
 to have, my course is & has been since
 I began to keep my own record & person
 strictly in the direction my search leads me,
 I frankly admit that this is nothing but
 a search of discovery so to speak, began in

(2)
Consequence of certain Relation Made to my
family by one of its Members in the year
1794, I believe that she knew what she told,
& since I began I have met with nothing
but what Conforms her Statement on the other
side I have done nothing in the way of Personal
investigation; But have devoted my self to obtain-
ing a thorough knowledge of the history of the
Lowny family & of John Laurence Morris Mays
Lowny the Estate & Honor of the family belongs
By right to his Descendants, the Estate called
by so many names as different I take to mean
Lowny Hall & its accompanying Property, concerning
this there has been much said that probably
was highly exaggerated, & wilfully & ignorantly
mistaken, I am in hope to know something just
what the facts are in all respects, I know
now this much in about 1805 the last
lineal Descendant of the Lowny family died, at
that time the Government took some action
in the matter & a great part of the Lowny
Library was sold at Evans reaction Room
in London, there was two sales one occupying
ten days, the other seven days & I am as nearly
as I can remember without having my
papers by me, it was about 1814 that Benjamin
Crawford Lowny of the line of Stampish, took
the Lowny Hall Estate Entailed there being
no heirs R. E. Lowny Charlotte Murrell who
was fourth Daughter of Robert Drummond of
Calcutta Thurst, now much of the Estate he
took as what uncertainty he may have had

with the English Government I know
 not But that he occupied Young Thall
thais & no question; although he has no
 right nor title if the heir was in Exeter
 as well & is the Baron - if as I have said John
Lawrence married Mary Lawley, 1st Lawley Baron
 in 1846 leaving two Sons Col. Charles & Col.
John Lawley & whatever property he possessed
 at his decease went to his Son Col. Charles,
 who was Elect in line Col. Charles Lawley of
 the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia, was born
 in June 1808 he was trustee of British Muse-
um & High Sheriff of Lancashire in 1848 &
 in 1858 was Elector Member of Parliament
 from Gloucester he married Jan. 20th 1836 Lady Bar-
oness Harriette Mahon, Daughter of William
Phillips 2nd Earl of Lepton by whom (who died Feb
 8th 1866) he has 3 Daughters viz; Caroline Laurie
 who married July 10th 1858 Montague Arthur
Lord Morrish Elect Son of the Earl of Chilling-
ham She died Sept. 4th 1873; Emily Frances who
 married August 6th 1868 Lord Alexander Gordon
Lennox; Alice Mary who married Aug. 2nd 1871 Thom-
as Lord Chagan of Ireland Col. Charles Lawley
 left no male heirs he died I think in 1875
 & was succeeded by his Brother Col. John Lawley
 Member of Parliament from Down, Col.
John married Lucy Elen Youngest Daughter
 of the late Sir Joseph Fitch Baile Bart. by
 by her he has 4 Daughters only one whom is
 married Col. John (died Feb. 21st 1877) Lawley &

Will a Copy of which of Lane But Not
 By me he left no male heirs so that with
 the death of Col. John Lowry in 1877 Extinguished
 the last of the male Lineal or Collateral of
 the Lancashire Lowry Hall Family, as far
 Great Britain is concerned But Not as far
 as this Country is concerned, By a long way,
 what ever descended to the Daughters of Col.
 John Lowry, they did not obtain until 1877
 & what obtaining, as uncles what Daughters
 they obtained & so do not know Lowry Hall
 is at present occupied by Lord Warrington, the
 above you may rely upon as being correct,
 it can be received by the heirs of Mary
 Lowry who married John Lawrence this
 is plain Common Sense, & Moreover - it is
 Law that those who say that P. E. Lowry
 except in herit Lowry Hall, was the long
 Surrounding it, but was only granted her
 to occupy the Premises & they also state that
 in the Will of P. E. Lowry "Charles & Col. John
 Lowry there is no mention made of any
 Estate, & that all and nap of it is given
 away, & so do not know how this is simply
 because

I have ^{been} ~~not~~ ^{been} ~~tried~~ to ascertain, this far
 I have spoken only of the Estate on which
Lounley Hall, the original home of the
Lounley family is located; But - I will
 say a few words concerning an Estate
 that much has been supposed to be
 my ancestor when she made her con-
 fession in 1794, & it is this Estate that
 I have been especially interested in wor-
 king for, Dorothy Lounley, sister to Mary
Marrise Francis Howard of Cooley in
Cumberland, she willed his entire prop-
 erty to his wife Dorothy, this will is on
 file in the Somerset House in the City
 of London, Mr. Gen. Wheeler of 387 Superior
St. Chicago I have seen this will he
 has also seen on file in the British
Museum in London, a copy of the paper
 containing the original & first agreement
 for the heirs in America, I am informed
 upon authority that I cannot dispute,
 except upon investigation I should find
 otherwise that Dorothy Lounley willed his
 entire Estate to his sister Mary who
 had married John Lawrence, this prop-
 erty must originally have been extensive
 & from the natural accumulation would
 to say amount to a very large sum

This undoubtedly ⁽⁶⁾ was the property Mary
Stevens, referring to in 1794, because then
the Townly Hall property did not seem
to have a final heir until subsequent
to 1800, this is another property that
came into the Townly family through
the marriage of Lady Miffington to a
Richard Townly about 1710, not having
any papers at hand, I cannot quote
you exact facts, Lady Mary Miffington
Estate came to her from her father
Lord William Miffington of Hartumbury
He settled a large portion of his property
upon her (daughter) at the time of her mar-
riage with Richard Townly, with a stipulation
that her husband should have nothing to
do with it, the above are matters
of fact in history & can be easily proven,
many who profess to know, state that they
have seen the (documentary Evidence by which
Lady Mary (Miffington) Townly willed a
portion of her vast Estate to Mary Lawrence
wife of John Lawrence in America, & as
seen the wills above mentioned, were
drawn many generations have passed away
& it is not to be supposed that the Government
ever told any more than it was obliged
to concerning this property that is a

matter they would be likely to keep
 quiet about & the facts can be gotten
 at only when a Decent from Mary Lowndy
 can be clearly shown than a claim
 can be made by such persons for their
 right in the premises, I have been informed
 by authority that is beyond question, that
 if they were heirs before the Sea at the
 time P. E. Lowndy took the Lowndy Hall Estate
 Entail, & if the wills alone mentioned are
 as stated that there will be no great trouble
 in securing legal possession of the Property
 previous to the marriage of Mary
 Lowndy to John Hansen & the existence
 of her parents can be clearly shown,
 one great difficulty in my work has
 been that there have been so many great
 English Estates taken of an unsuspecting
 public & that really so little is known con-
 cerning this one - even by those who have
 investigated it. If there interest would
 only stick to one thing dig - dig and find
 they would & get that straight first they
 would be doing what they should have
 done a long time ago. Hon. Rensselaer Johnson
 while Minister to England looked into
 this matter he reported to the persons
 who told me, that there was an unclaimed
 Estate, the person who gave me this information

(8)
is unimpeachable veracity & what I have
stated can be corroborated at any time.
I quote Lawson's Statement viz: Large
John Lawley, Estate in 1740 & Mary
Lawley Lawrence Estate, 1800s & 1810s."
This is the first time I have ever heard
of a Large John Lawley or a Mary Lawley
Lawrence Estate, Whence did he hear of this
I don't suppose that any particular name
has been given to the property we are seek-
ing, it may be entered upon the Government
Books in one of a half dozen different forms,
but for convenience & because the people in
this country do not know the correct name
for the property they are in search of,
it has been called at various times, the
Lawley, "the Lawley-Chase", the Lawley-
Williams" & the Lawley Steamers, "Estate
Just as it suited the fancy of those who
have been interested, I have sent you
this letter because I want you to understand
something of what the facts are as the items
I have above quoted is going the rounds of the
Newspapers, it will undoubtedly have a ten-
dency to mislead, many who are ignorant of the merits
of the case & who are too prone to jump at anything the New-
spapers report, that Newspapers are very haphazard & print
a great deal about meaning of which, they care

HISTORY
—OF THE—
LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY,
—AND—
CHASE-TOWNLEY
Estates in England.

—WITH—
Copious Historical and Genealogical Notes of the Lawrence, Chase, and Townley families, and much other valuable information.

—BY—
JAMES USHER,
9 Murray Street, New York City.

1883.

This edition published by
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P R E F A C E .

Having been employed by certain parties to ascertain whether there was such a property as the Lawrence-Townley or Chase-Townley estate in England, and whether they could recover the same, I have, with the assistance of competent and reliable associates, made a thorough and complete investigation.

This book contains the information collected by myself, and also that furnished by parties interested, with much other matter relating to the case, and will, I believe, be found to be the most extended and reliable report ever made about the so-called Lawrence-Townley or Chase-Townley estates.

I am not accustomed to write for the press, and make no pretensions to authorship, but have simply endeavored to express, in plain language, what I have collected about the subject-matter of the book.

In presenting this report, I do not mean to cast reflections upon my predecessors, especially those who have departed this life, as I have no doubt many of them, among others Mr. Carver, undertook the matter in good faith, but were unable for lack of funds, and from other reasons, to carry the case to an end ; but I find it necessary to mention their names in this report, not with disrespect, but simply to present both sides of the question, and in order to give the readers an opportunity to judge for themselves.

Very respectfully,

THE AUTHOR.

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CHAPTER I.

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE LAWRENCE AND TOWNLEY ESTATE.

For years past it has been asserted and believed that there was in England a sum of money, variously estimated from three hundred to five hundred million of dollars, which belong to, and could be recovered by the lawful heirs of John Lawrence, and Mary Townley, his wife.

The origin of the family and of the fund has been at all times differently stated, but the various accounts given to me by the various claimants was that which had been obtained from statements which had been published by former delegates, and other apparently reliable sources, which I quote as follows:

WESTERN LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ASSOCIATION.

Dayton, O., April 11th, 1874.

This circular contains all the information in our possession up to the present time, and is a *brief history* of the genealogy of the Lawrence-Townley heirs, as collected and compiled by D. B. Carver, Attorney for the heirs.

Published by authority of the officers of said association.

[Signed]

W. L. WINCHELL, *Secretary*.

A valuable estate. The Lawrence-Townley property, \$500,000,000 awaiting an owner.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ESTATE.

Mr. D. B. Carver, a prominent lawyer, and a well known authority in antiquarian studies, has been engaged for several years in compiling and tracing the pedigree of the Townley-Lawrence heirs, with the view of securing to Mr. William T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, New York, and others, the vast Townley estate, in land and money, in the Bank of England, valued in all at over \$500,000,000. He has associated with him Mr. George Day, a prominent lawyer of Troy, a brother of the Hon. John Day, of Montreal, counsel to the Queen, who will act as counsel and barrister with them in the prosecution of the claim in England. It appears that

CHAPTER I

HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE LAWRENCE AND TOWNLEY ESTATE

The year 1811 has been selected and followed has been in 1811 and a series of events, variously estimated from 1811 to 1811, has been selected to follow, which, being the first time it occurred in the history of the Lawrence and Townley families. The origin of the family and of the first settlement in the United States, but the subsequent years to be by the various states, this was that which has been selected from documents which had been published by various authors, and which, apparently, relate to the which I quote as follows:

WESTERN LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ASSOCIATION

October 11, April 1811, 1811

This circular contains all the information in our possession up to the present time, and is a copy of the history of the Lawrence-Townley family, as compiled and reported by H. H. Green, Attorney at Law, New York.

Published by authority of the officers of said association.

W. L. Winthrop, Secretary.

[Signed]

A valuable source. The Lawrence-Townley property, 1811-1811.

existing in 1811.

with records of the estate.

Mr. H. H. Green, a prominent lawyer and a well known authority in the history of the Lawrence-Townley family, has been engaged for several years in investigating and compiling the history of the Lawrence-Townley family, with a view to the publication of a history of the Lawrence-Townley family, New York and others. The Lawrence-Townley estate is held and managed in the State of England and in all other countries. It was acquired with the Lawrence-Townley family in 1811, a prominent lawyer at New York, a brother of the late John Jay, of the same name, who was at the time, and having with them in the possession of the estate in England. It appears that

Richard Townley, the ancestor of Townley of Lancashire, England, owned vast estates, which descended through several generations to Richard Townley, of Townley Hall, who married Mary, the daughter of Lord Widrington, and had two sons, and two daughters, viz.: Mary and Dorothy. Mary married John Lawrence, and Dorothy married Sir Francis Howard, afterwards Lord Effingham, who owned vast estates in Corby, including the famous Corby Castle.

John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his wife, emigrated to America about the year 1713, and died in the State of Massachusetts, leaving one son, Jonathan. Lord Effingham died without issue, and his wife became sole heir to his estate.

She died soon after, leaving her estate to Mary Townley Lawrence in America ; and by a failure of the male line of Richard Townley, his estate reverted to his daughter, Mary Townley Lawrence, and at her death it descended to her son, Jonathan Lawrence, of Walpole, Massachusetts, and in a direct line in the male issue to William T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, as stated above.

We called on Mr. Carver during the early part of the past week, and found him preparing to start for Boston, to obtain some additional proofs from the old records in that State. We were informed that the researches of history, and the records both in England and America, made by Mr. Carver, who has been working assiduously for many years, enable him to furnish, not only the historical record, but the genealogy of the Lawrences in England and America. They originated from Robert Lawrence, of Lancashire, England, who was born in Rome A. D. 1150, and emigrated to Lancashire, Lancaster Co., England.

He was the earliest ancestor of the name of Lawrence in England, and was an officer attending his sovereigns, Richard Cœur de Lion and Richard I., and engaged in the crusade to the Holy Land, where he so distinguished himself in the siege of Acre, and in taking the island of Cyprus and the city of Acon in Palestine, and at Jerusalem, when it was being taken by the infidels, that he was knighted Sir Richard Lawrence.

In addition he also received from his sovereign a grant of Ashton Hall, and obtained for his coat-of-arms Argent, a cross ; Raguly Gules, A. D. 1191. The arms of Sir Robert of Ashton Hall, conferred upon him by Richard Cœur de Lion, were also those of Lancashire ; also he beareth ermine, a cross raguly, gules by the name of Lawrence of Lancashire.

Proceeding with the successive generations of ancestry, we have in order of time the first generation in Knight Sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall ; and in the same order in the male line of descent (that is, the oldest male in each family), from Sir Robert Lawrence, second, who suc-

ceeded his father, and whose titles of landed estates, with the several coats-of-arms conferred upon him, were inherited under the law by his son, who then became Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton Hall, and so we follow in the succeeding generations of Lawrence in England, down to 1690. Here we start in the genealogy of the name of Townley, of Townley Hall. Sir Richard Townley, the ancestor of Mary Townley, who married John Lawrence, originated from Sir Richard Townley, of Townley, in 1566, who owned landed estates at Townley, in Lancashire, and other places in England, which descended through several generations in the male line to Richard Townley of Townley Hall, who married Mary, the daughter of William, the late Lord Widrington. She was the only survivor to the estate of her father, and before her marriage with Richard Townley entered into an agreement with him by deed, recorded in the records of marriage contracts at York, whereby she retained all the estates of her father as her sole and separate estate, and subject to her disposal. By the marriage of Richard Townley with Mary Widrington they had, in course of time, three sons and two daughters, viz.: Richard, who died young; John, George, Mary and Dorothy Townley. Mary Townley married John Lawrence, and Dorothy married Sir Francis Howard, afterwards Lord Effingham, the owner and proprietor of Corby Castle, in Corby.

He died without issue, leaving his wife Dorothy the sole owner of his estate. John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his wife, and their son, emigrated to America, and located in what was then known as New Plymouth, in the State of Massachusetts.

Richard Townley, the father of Mary Lawrence, died, and his will was proved and recorded at Doctors' Commons, in London, October 10th, 1735, leaving his widow surviving. The latter died in 1740, leaving her vast estates in land, jewels, plate and money in the Bank of England, by will to her two daughters, Mary Lawrence and her heirs in America, and Dorothy Howard, of Corby Castle, England, and to their heirs, and at their disposal. Dorothy Howard died in 1757 without issue, and willed her estates, both real and personal, to her sister Mary Lawrence, in America, and to her heirs forever. These two estates at that time, for want of an heir in the name of Mary Townley Lawrence, were administered upon by the Government of England, and all the landed estates are now held and rented by the government, and the rents, as well as the money, jewels and plate, of Mary Widrington Townley and Dorothy Howard, are deposited in the Bank of England, drawing interest at three per cent. a year on the money so deposited. The entire estate, both real and personal, is thus held subject to the recovery by the true heirs in the descent from John Lawrence and Mary Townley his wife. By the laws of England, as provided in 7 and 8 Victoria, Chap. 66, Sec. 4,

"An alien may now take and hold every species of personal property (except chattels), real as fully as if he were a natural born subject, including those acquired by testamentary dispositions; he may be an executor or administrator, and as to personal property, he may be a trustee in like manner as natural subjects."

By an earlier statute, 11 and 12 William III., Chap. 6, Sec. 6,

"All persons, including naturalized aliens, may inherit and make their title by descent from any of their ancestors, lineal or collateral, although their father, or mother, or other ancestor, by, from, through or under whom they derive their pedigree, were born out of the British realm."

By a failure of the male line of the brothers and their descendants in the death of Charles Townley, in 1813, the estate of Townley Hall and other estates of Richard Townley passed to Mary Townley, the wife of John Lawrence, in America, and her heirs; so that the proof to one of the estates takes title to the several estates so willed to Mary Townley Lawrence and her heirs in America. Jonathan Lawrence, the eldest son of John and Mary Lawrence, was commissioned as a captain, June 11, 1746, by William Shirley, then Governor of the Colony now the present State of Massachusetts. Captain Lawrence resided at Rohoboth, Mass., at the time he was so commissioned, and went to Nova Scotia in the war between the French and Indians against Great Britain. He afterwards, in 1752, 1753, and 1754, resided in Walpole, Mass., and in the year 1755 removed to Nova Scotia, where he died, leaving his family—his father and mother having died near New Bedford, Mass.—in poverty and obscurity. Being in constant war with the Indians at that time, he knew not of the wealth in England, or if he did, had no means to go there and obtain it. But the grandson, Jonathan John Lawrence, having the two inherited names, went to England, in 1814, leaving his wife and two children in Nova Scotia, and succeeded Charles Townley in the Townley estate, and finally dying in possession of Townley Hall, in 1816. He left a will by which the estates have descended to his succeeding generations. In the direct line in the male issue is William T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., who was born Sept. 10th, 1812.

Mr. Carver has compiled the genealogy and historical record of the Lawrences, both in England and America, from 1150 down to the present time. Also the genealogy of the Townleys, from 1566 down to 1813, at which time the descendants in the male line of Townley became extinct, and the estates reverted to the heirs of Mary Townley. In his researches he includes the genealogy, wills and records of the estate of Dorothy Howard Effingham and Mary Widrington, of York, the maternal ancestor, through whom is claimed the several estates known as the Lawrence and Townley estates. This record has been continued in the various New England States from the town records of marriages, births

and deaths, and records of landed estates, and includes the copies of wills and deeds for two hundred years and upwards, and enables him to compile his case from record evidence. *It is also due to say that under the laws of the United States, that there are also collateral heirs in the Lawrence families in America other than William T. Lawrence, who also inherit this estate.* In Mr. Carver's researches into the antiquity of the Lawrence and Townley families, he is in possession of many old and curious documents, some of them nearly two hundred years old. Messrs. Carver and Day expect to have all their papers ready by June 1st, when they will sail for Europe; and they hope within a short time thereafter to be able to place in Mr. Lawrence's possession (who is an humble laboring man in Lansingburgh) his distributive proportion, with due collateral heirs, to the vast estate now in the hands of the English government. Not a single link in the chain, as perfected by Mr. Carver, is missing, and the now humble family will, it is thought, soon be in possession of his portion of an estate rivaling in its value the wealth of the Indies. Among the romantic incidents connected with the family efforts to reach the estate now in question—and there are many—is the following: In 1774 Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., grandson of John and Mary Lawrence, then a man of thirty-five, reared like his father in the rough ways of sailor and rover, conceived it necessary to go to England to secure his rights by proving his loyalty. He was a British subject, and partly from dread of the revolution, as well as with a certain undefined notion of his inheritance, for which he was, in the main, indifferent, he left Nova Scotia, brought his wife and two sons to her Massachusetts home and set sail for England, but was shipwrecked and reported to have been lost at sea.

He was, however, picked up by a vessel bound for the East Indies and carried to its destination.

It was three years later when he reached England, and in his sailor-like listlessness—especially while the war was in active progress—he seems to have made no effort to communicate with the family in America. Upon the declaration of peace, however, he determined to return to America to look after them. On his arrival he learned that his wife, supposing him to have been lost at sea, had married again, and had removed to the western part of the State, having children by this second husband; and, without communicating with her, he returned by the same ship which had brought him over, succeeding, however, in gaining possession of his youngest son, whom he now took with him.

Other years of silence rolled by, during which this son, still a minor, sickened and died, while his oldest son grew up in the family of his constructive father in America. Jonathan now (1814) seventy-five years

of age, wrote to his eldest son, mentioned above, urging him to come to him and assist in the care of his affairs.

This son was prevented from so doing by a painful disease, of which he soon afterward died, and Jonathan himself died 1816, devising his property to his eldest son, who, dying while his sons were mere lads, left his papers in the hands of one who allowed the young heirs to grow up in ignorance of their rights, and eventually originated claims to their prejudice, the same being at one time apparently on the high road to success, with such plausibility that movements of considerable magnitude were excited among the English tenants upon the estate to obtain speculative advantages. The presumptive heirs to this estate are in humble life, and dependent upon others to prosecute their claims, consequently several associations, as stated below, have been formed in regions where branches of the family are found, none of which, however, have hitherto completed the documentary testimony involved, or reached a suitable preparation for instituting legal proceedings. The interest which will now be awakened by the proceedings commenced will by no means be confined to the kindred most concerned.

LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ASSOCIATION,

Dayton, O., June 1, 1873.

As a person interested in the Lawrence-Townley estate, your attention is called to the fact that there has been a decision of the English Court of Chancery, by which three-fourths of the sum of \$380,000,000 has been awarded to the American heirs of Mary Townley. This vast property comes from Sir R. Townley, living about A. D. 1600 at Townley Hall, Lancashire, England. Mary Townley was heir to this immense estate. \$260,000,000 has been awarded to her heirs in America, and, as one of her heirs, you are interested in the investigations of the following questions :

1. Who are the legal heirs of Mary Townley-Lawrence ?
2. What is necessary to do to establish said title or claim ?
3. Can *you establish* your claim, or on what proof do you base your claim ?

We wish to impress upon you that no one but you can furnish your family history, consequently, if you do not do it, it will never be done.

This is all that is wanting now. Will you do it? No other person has as much interest in *your* case as *yourself*. By furnishing us all the evidence you can obtain, as soon as possible, we may be able to supply any wanting *links* in your chain from other sources, but we cannot do this without your help. Please forward to us, as soon as possible, a full family history of your ancestry as far back as you can give it—names, dates, etc., *not supposed*, but what you can *prove*—and we will then place

them, with others, in the hands of attorneys to arrange. Will you unite with us and give all the aid possible, and there is no doubt about the successful result? It is a big undertaking, and can only be accomplished by united effort.

If you do not desire to push your claim any longer, please notify "W. L. Winchell, Corresponding Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, Dayton, Ohio," so that there may be no delay waiting for your proof. It may be a fortune to you to attend at once to this matter, but you alone must decide as to what you can or will do.

Respectfully,
(Signed,) W. L. WINCHELL,
J. D. FOX,
J. Q. A. COFFEEN,
Executive Committee.

Extracts from a small book published by William T. Lawrence, of Troy, New York, 1875. This book contains statements of the most positive character made by some of the most eminent men in the legal profession in this State.

Jonathan Lawrence was born in Manchester, England, A. D. 1711. Jonathan, Jr., or Jonathan John, was born in Walpole August 23d, 1739. Lebbeus was born in Nova Scotia in 1766. William T. Lawrence was born in Lansingburgh, N. Y., in 1808, and at this writing still lives. Of all the births and marriages referred to in the above genealogy, official records are found in the town books except in case of the birth of the last, viz., William T. Lawrence, and this lack of official record is supplied by family records and affidavits of living witnesses:

William T. Lawrence's ancestors Englishmen.

From the foregoing we notice the fact that Jonathan, Sr., was born in England, was a British subject, and died a pensioner on the crown, and lies buried in British soil. His son, Jonathan, Jr., though born in Walpole, was still a British subject. He was born thirty-seven years prior to the American revolution. In early life he went to England, where he spent most of his days, and finally died and was buried there.

His son, Lebbeus, was born in Nova Scotia ten years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Jonathan, Jr., in 1810, made a will in favor of his son, "Lebbeus, and his heirs," and this brings us to the fact that the present claimant is the only person in the chain who was not a regular British subject a part of his life. William T. Lawrence is American born—was born in Lansingburgh in 1808.

The fact that so much of the history of this family has taken place on British soil, accounts for the completeness of the official records for so many years, as the British government is known to make and preserve

them, with which in the hands of all sorts of men. With you, with
with us, and with all the world, and there is no doubt about the
unmistakable result. It is a big undertaking, and can only be successful
if we succeed.

It is not our desire to push your claim any longer, please write "W."
L. Whitcomb, Corresponding Secretary of the American Society for
Human Rights, to that effect, as we are waiting for your book. It
may be a pleasure to you to attend at once to this matter, but you should
first think as to what you can do well do.

Respectfully,
W. L. Whitcomb,
125 E. 10th St.,
New York City.

Enclosed find a copy of the book published by William T. Lawrence of New York
1910. The book contains a number of the most interesting and important
documents relating to the history of the American Society for Human Rights.

Jonathan Lawrence was born in Manchester, England, A. D. 1842.
He was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, who was born in Whitby, England, 1800.
Jonathan Lawrence was born in Manchester, England, A. D. 1842.
He was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, who was born in Whitby, England, 1800.
Jonathan Lawrence was born in Manchester, England, A. D. 1842.
He was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, who was born in Whitby, England, 1800.
Jonathan Lawrence was born in Manchester, England, A. D. 1842.
He was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, who was born in Whitby, England, 1800.

William T. Lawrence's mother, Elizabeth,
from the foregoing we learn that Jonathan Lawrence, who was born in
England, was a British subject, and that a gentleman on the ground, and
himself in British soil. He was Jonathan Lawrence, though born in
Whitby, was also a British subject. He was born about seven years
prior to the American revolution. In early life he spent in England,
where he spent most of his days, and finally died and was buried there.
His son, Jonathan, was born in New York, ten years before the sign-
ing of the Declaration of Independence. Jonathan Lawrence, in this order
a well known of his son, "Jonathan and his book," and this brings us
to the fact that the present edition is the only person in the chain who
was not a British subject, subject a part of his life. William T. Law-
rence is American born, was born in Manchester, England, in 1842.
The fact that so much of the history of this party has been so
British, and accounts for the correspondence of the official records be so
many years in the British government is known to make and preserve

all such records with the strictest fidelity. It is only the claimant who is the last of the line that was American born; and as before stated, the record in his case is amply supplied by family records and living witnesses.

This family was advertised for in the *London Times* in 1846.

In the year 1846 there appeared an advertisement in the *London Times* calling for one John Lawrence, who had married a Mary Townley and settled in Massachusetts. His family, it claimed, afterward went to Nova Scotia, and, further, he was one of three brothers who came over here, whose names were John, Thomas, and Daniel.

This advertisement describes this identical family. Notice the coincidence in the advertisement and the facts in the history of this family. The first coincidence consists in the names given—"John Lawrence, who married Mary Townley." The second consists in the fact that the family did move from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia. The third consists in the fact that John Lawrence, who married Mary Townley, was one of the three brothers, John, Thomas, and Daniel.

Concerning the other two brothers mentioned in the advertisement, namely, Thomas and Daniel, their names are interwoven in the history of this family. Daniel was killed by the Indians, at Old Brookfield, Massachusetts.

Thomas was living in 1741, as he did that year execute a warranty deed to Jonathan Lawrence, then of the province of Annapolis Royal. The land sold to Jonathan is in Wrentham, Mass. Said deed is still in the family, as is another executed by his brother-in-law, Daniel Robbins, of Walpole, Mass. These deeds have come down through the successive generations of the family to the present William T. Lawrence, and are valuable evidence in proof of the identity of the family called for by the advertisement.

Copy of a circular sent out by Jasiel Lawrence, 261 Broadway, New York City.

£28,000,000.

Lawrence-Townley Estate, England.

It is now certain that Jasiel Lawrence, of Watson, N. Y., is the sole heir to this immense estate. The Lawrence family, in different parts of the country, have expended large sums of money in investigating their claims to this estate—but in vain—all of them having failed to prove their heirship to this fortune, as the pure blood of Mary Townley—through whom this estate is derived—did not flow in their veins. This Mary Townley was married in England to John Lawrence, the ancestor of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This marriage between John Lawrence and Mary Townley is found in the English records—they em-

All such records with the nearest family. It is only the nearest who
is the fact that was a common law; and as before stated, the
record in his case is simply supplied by family records and being in-
correct.

This family was identified in the London Times in 1845.
In the year 1845 there appeared an advertisement in the London Times
calling for one John Lawrence, who had married a Mary Thomas, and
settled in Massachusetts. The family is believed to have been
there for many years, but he was one of those persons who came over
from France some years before John Thomas and Daniel.

The advertisement showed the family name. While the name
given in the advertisement and the fact is the identity of the family.
The first advertisement contains the name John Lawrence, who
who married Mary Thomas. The second contains the name John
Daniel, the more from the name in the name. The third contains
is the fact John Lawrence, who married Mary Thomas, and one of
the first families John Thomas and Daniel.

Concerning the other two persons mentioned in the advertisement,
namely, Thomas and Daniel, their names are to be found in the history
of the family. Daniel was killed by the Indians at the Battle of
Marston.

Thomas was living in 1797, as he did not receive a pension
check to Jonathan Lawrence, one of the sons of Amos's House.
The last child in the family is in Western, Mass. This child is still in
the family, as is another named by his father as John Daniel Thomas.
of Western, Mass. These children have come down through the name
of Jonathan of the family to the present William T. Lawrence, and
are reliable evidence in proof of the identity of the family, which is by
the advertisement.

My wife's mother was John Lawrence, the brother of the first wife.

1845-1846

Lawrence-Thomas Family, England

It is now certain that John Lawrence of Western, N. Y. is the son
and is the same name. The Lawrence family is believed to have
the family, but no record appears of them in the family. The
family is the same, but is not all of them living in the same place.
family to the family as the first child of Mary Thomas, though
when the name is changed, it is not in the name. This fact
Thomas was married in England to John Lawrence, the son
of the present John Lawrence. The name of the family is
now and Mary Thomas is found in the English records, but not

igrated to this country in 1716. The said John Lawrence and Mary Townley—his wife—had only one son, Jonathan, who was the great-grandfather of Jasiel Lawrence, the present heir-at-law to this estate. This Jonathan Lawrence married Hannah Robbins, of Walpole, Mass., 1738, by whom he had two sons and two daughters; the names of the sons were Jonathan Jr.; and William.

Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., was the eldest son and next heir to the estate, according to the laws of England. He was born in Walpole, Mass., 1739. He married Miss Rachel Smith, of Easton, Mass., in 1762. This fact is proved by the town records of Easton and by other official documents in the possession of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and Rachel, his wife, had two sons, Libbeus and Jasiel. Libbeus was born in Nova Scotia, 1765, and died in Lansingburgh, N. Y., in 1818, leaving one son, John A. Lawrence, who died in Troy, N. Y., June 10th, 1857, leaving one son, Norman J. Lawrence, who died in 1862, without heirs; he was a soldier in the United States army, and was shot at Racoon Ford, while driving an ambulance. This closes the line of heirship of Libbeus Lawrence.

Jasiel Lawrence, Sr., brother of Libbeus, was born in Easton, Mass., in 1772, and died in Durhamville, Oneida County, N. Y., 1842.

Jasiel Lawrence, Jr., of Watson, Lewis County, N. Y., born Sept. 30th, 1808, oldest surviving son, is heir to the estate, according to the laws of England. He has been for several years searching for this testimony, and is now able to prove, beyond doubt, that he is the legal heir to the estate. The legal documents to prove the above statements, certified to by the proper officials, are now in the possession of Jasiel Lawrence, and have been officially examined and certified to by Governor Fenton, of New York, and Secretary Seward and other eminent lawyers, and the British Legation at Washington. The Court of Chancery of England, ordered by the House of Commons, February 23, 1865, "That the Lawrence-Townley estate remains yet unclaimed, and as yet subject to a claimant," that on the books are marked, "Heirs gone to America." That the Court passed the following decree: "That the estate belongs to the heirs of Mary Townley, who, having married a Lawrence, settled in America, and that her descendants are the legal heirs to the said estate." Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, being a man of moderate means, has, at the suggestion of his friends, adopted the following plan of raising funds to prosecute his claim in England. It is necessary to employ the best legal talent in that country.

He offers for a small sum, a share for one thousand dollars, payable at the bank from the first funds received from the estate.

REFERENCES:

A. COBURN, Attorney at Law, Utica, N. Y.
 A. M. MILLS, Esq., Newport, N. Y.
 R. EARL, Judge of the Court of Appeals, Herkimer, N. Y.
 HON. FRANCIS KERNAN, Utica, N. Y.
 JOHN H. MARTINDALE, Attorney at Law, late Attorney-General of the
 State of N. Y., and Military Governor of D. C., Rochester, N. Y.

RATES OF SHARES IN THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE.

One-fourth share costing \$ 5,	will entitle the holder to \$	250.
One-half " " 10,	" " "	500.
One whole " " 20,	" " "	1,000.
Three whole shares costing 50,	" " "	3,000.
Seven " " 100,	" " "	7,000.
One hundred " " 1,000,	" " "	100,000.

LAWRENCE SCRIP.

No. 537.

Whereas, it is believed that John A. Lawrence, of Troy, N. Y., is heir at law to a large estate in England, called the "Townley Estate;"

And, whereas said Lawrence is desirous of recovering possession thereof, and in order to accomplish the same is obliged to raise money, by issuing scrips, which are to be the first lien on said estate;

Now therefore, for and in consideration of — dollars to me in hand paid, I hereby agree to pay the bearer of this scrip — dollars out of the first moneys received from said estate, and I do further agree to expend said moneys received for said scrips for recovery of said estate.

Dated Troy, January 30, 1856.

(Signed)

JOHN A. LAWRENCE:

A copy of an advertisement which appeared in the New York Herald of March 17th, 1875.

"The attention of the heirs of Lebbeus Lawrence is called to a published report of a decree of Chancery, calling for the heirs of Lebbeus Lawrence in America, and reading further as follows: "And it is further adjudged and decreed that all of the landed estates, money, plate, jewels, personal effects, and chattels, real, owned, or inherited by Mary Townley Lawrence, deceased, together with all the accumulations thereon, be and hereby are adjudged to belong to Lebbeus Lawrence and his heirs forever. Heirs, or parties believing themselves to be such, should furnish their genealogy to C. W. Lawton, Station G., New York, or R. J. Lawton, Princess Street, Manchester, England.

Copy of a Letter from Norman J. Lawrence.

Troy, Jan. 4th, 1856.

DEAR FRIENDS:

I have returned to my home after an absence of thirteen weeks, and I now write to let you know what success we had when we arrived in Liverpool; we went to the American House, which was kept by one Mr. Davis, whom we found had been a jurymen in the Court of Chancery for seven years. This we found out the next morning, and thought it favorable for us.

We then consulted him in regard to a lawyer; he took us to Mr. Huntley. We made known to him our business; he said that we had had our trouble for our pains, for the heirs were all dead, and that the property would soon go into the hands of the government. I felt sick at heart. He then asked to what family we belonged. Father went on to state our family genealogy; when he came to the name of Lebbeus, his father, Mr. Huntley, started, and said, is Lebbeus your father's name? Yes; I have got that name in one of our books. He went in another room and brought out a book, turning to a place, pointed to the name of Lebbeus Lawrence. He said there was a letter written to him (Lebbeus) in 1814, and receiving no answer they supposed he must be dead, and that was why he said the heirs were all dead. He told us our Jonathan Lawrence came from America, and landed in England three years after, staying in England four years. He went back to America, but did not stay long, and returned again, not bringing any of his family with him. At last he was taken sick, and in the year 1814 he had a letter written to his son to come and attend to his property, but receiving no answer, he thought he must be dead, and in the year 1816 he (Jonathan Lawrence) died.

In the year 1827 the decision was made, which was, if the heirs of Jonathan Lawrence or Lebbeus Lawrence came and claimed the estate before the lease was out, it should go to the heirs (it was leased long before the decision for three lives), and we are on the last life, so you see we are in time yet.

The next week we showed him our papers; he said he was *surprised*; we were the *heirs*.

If we could get the letter we could get the property. Father says that he can get it, or an affidavit that his father received such a letter (which the lawyer said would do as well).

He says we must get all our papers signed by the Secretary of State, for we go to the highest power in England, and they recognize none but the highest; and as it would cost more to stay in England until we could send our papers to America and get them signed (and then it

might not be done right), we concluded to come and do it ourselves, so here we are. We went to Manchester, and was on the old home-stand. The piece of land lying in and around Manchester is eight miles square.

There are two other pieces of land—one in Sheffield, one in Gloucester—besides a large amount of money in the Bank of England.

Now, my intention is to get this letter, then to Washington and get our papers signed, then to Boston and get the precise time that Jonathan Lawrence sailed for England, then to Halifax to get the Governor to sign the papers of my father's birth, and of Jonathan Lawrence receiving a grant of a tract of land; from there go to England. When I got home I found \$50,000 from you, and some powers of attorney, for which I was very glad, and think in a short time you will receive the benefit of it, for I am determined to push this matter through, and with the help of God, and the assistance of our friends, we hope to get it. When we got home we were quite sick from the roughness of the voyage; we had been on the go ever since we left, fourteen weeks ago; we have been home one week, and now feel quite refreshed, and shall commence our journey next week. The reason of Jonathan Lawrence's absence for three years after leaving America before reaching England, is that he was wrecked and was picked up by a vessel, and taken to the Indies, and from there he went to England. Please to write as soon as you receive this letter, for we would like to hear from you before we go. Our love to all.

Yours with respect,

NORMAN J. LAWRENCE.

Additional Documents concerning this Estate and Family.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
COUNTY OF COURTLAND, } ss.:
TOWN OF TRUXTON.

Anthony C. West, being duly sworn, says that he is 77 years of age and upwards, and that he resides in the town of Truxton and county of Cortland and State of New York, and that deponent was well acquainted with Lebbeus Lawrence, who died at Lansingburgh in the year 1818, and that the said Lebbeus Lawrence was the son of Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and when deponent knew him, the said Lebbeus, he lived in Lansingburgh in the said State of New York; that some time in the year 1814, and deponent thinks in the latter part of September in said year, deponent received a letter from the post-master at the town of Grafton; said letter was addressed to the said Lebbeus Lawrence, to be delivered by deponent to the said Lebbeus Lawrence, and that said letter was from England, as appeared by the post-mark thereon; and that said deponent opened said letter and read it, and then sent the said letter to Lebbeus

Lawrence, the son of Jonathan Lawrence, Jr.; said letter was dated in England, and signed by Jonathan Lawrence, father of said Lebbeus Lawrence; Jonathan Lawrence was then in England, as deponent was informed and verily believed; and deponent further says he well remembers the substance and contents of said letters, and that the same was in substance and effect as follows: That said Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., requested the said Lebbeus Lawrence to come to England and attend to the settlement and collection of said estate and his business there; further deponent saith not.

(Signed)

ANTHONY C. WEST.

Subscribed and sworn before me, }
this 22d day of Nov., 1870. }

H. W. Annis,

J. B. HOLAHAN,

Witness.

Justice of the Peace.

Copies of Letters from J. Richardson, Barrister, Liverpool, England.

Liverpool, August 30th, 1856.

DEAR SIR :

Messrs. John A. Lawrence and Son having consulted me as to the course to be pursued as to the beneficial interest or claim, under the title of "Estates of Townley and Lawrence," of this country, I beg to state that, according to the documents produced by them and other evidence of titles since produced here, such as wills, and also pedigrees, together with armorial bearings, crest, description, etc., the titles seem to hang together, as a link or chain, as to the descent direct from the ancient families above named. A great deal is to be done in furtherance of their intended views, before the claim can be established. It is, therefore, very necessary that sufficient funds be raised to defray such expense. For my own part I can carry the same on at a percentage, and employ all necessary means to carry out their case, and when such funds are afforded, I feel confident of success. You will receive this, enclosed by Norman J. Lawrence, in to-morrow's mail, and you can enclose any communication to me through him, as I, from letters I have seen from you to him, wherein you wished to know as to the progress made in the business, will say, I am sure, Mr. Lawrence is doing all in his power for the general interest of the family.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

To WM. GAY, Esq.

J. RICHARDSON.

Liverpool, October 3d, 1856.

DEAR SIR :

At the request of Messrs. Lawrence and Son, I beg to state that, in the first instance, so far as every enquiry goes, and the perseverance

already gone to, as to the "*Townley or Lawrence Estate*," it is very likely to be prosperous. The estate is here, and no doubt obtainable. And as to the proofs, which are already in being, there is every reason to believe that the estate left to *Mary Townley*, who married *John Lawrence*, and was the mother of *Jonathan Lawrence*, who married *Hannah Robbins*, is the true party to whom the *Townley Estate* falls, and that the next heir under *Mary* is entitled. Then it must follow that the heirs under that estate *are all dead*. Then again, after such being the case, Mr. John A. Lawrence, being the only representative of such an *estate*, must be and is the only present descendant, and consequently will eventually recover the property available, whatever that may be. Nevertheless, it will require both *money* and *perseverance* to succeed. There has been so many claims as to this property, all of which have failed, that now it is likely to be recovered by the present, which does appear to be the real and right legal claim. Understanding as I do, and according to the evidence produced and facts certified, I feel satisfied as to the claim that John A. Lawrence has. No doubt that, by pushing the matter as to the estate on a vested interest, it will be found that the said John A. Lawrence, or his heirs, executors or administrators, will be his next of kin, and take the whole of whatever the estate may be. With these remarks, I beg to say that all matters may be considered, and that you may agree as to the course to be pursued as to the future events.

I am, sir, yours most obediently,

J. RICHARDSON,

WM. FLANDRAU, Esq.

Of Firm of Huntley & Richardson.

COPY OF RECORD TAKEN FROM THE FAMILY BIBLE OF LEBBEUS LAWRENCE.

	<i>Births.</i>		
Lebbeus Lawrence	born	Dec.	28, 1765.
Sylvia Ford	"	Aug.	22, 1781.
Rachel L. Lawrence	"	Sept.	22, 1799.
John A. Lawrence	"	Dec.	29, 1801.
Laura Lawrence	"	Dec.	29, 1803.
Harriet Lawrence	"	Dec.	10, 1806.
WILLIAM T. LAWRENCE	"	Sept.	10, 1808.
Mary Ann Lawrence	"	April	9, 1810.
Hannah Lawrence	"	Feb.	22, 1812.
Timothy Lawrence	"	Dec.	29, 1813.
Henry Lawrence	"	Nov.	25, 1814.
Julia Ann Lawrence	"	Dec.	29, 1817.

	<i>Deaths.</i>	
Lebbeus Lawrence	died	Oct. 25, 1818.
Sylvia Lawrence	"	Feb. 5, 1833.
John A. Lawrence	"	July 1, 1858.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of Bible record.

JOHN HIGGINS,
Notary Public, Waterford, N. Y.

LETTERS OF FRANCIS KNIVETON.

When Jasiel Lawrence presented his claim on the fraudulent representation that the heirs of Lebbeus Lawrence were all dead, Mr. Francis Kniveton, who lived on the estate, learning the fact and knowing the weight of the evidence, at once came to this country to buy an interest in the estate. After he arrived he received, through his friend Isaac Simpson, of Montreal, the following cable dispatches :

"Montreal Telegraph Co. To Francis Kniveton, Watertown, N. Y. The estate is awarded to Jasiel Lawrence; amount not known by this cable dispatch; you will get it in the next; another cable dispatch in a few days.
ISAAC SIMPSON."

"Sept. 12, 1870. To Francis Kniveton, Watertown, N. Y.: The exact amount of the real and personal estate is estimated at one hundred and one million pounds sterling. Buy all the bonds you can; give a good figure for them. The rentals will be paid on the 10th day of October next. Get your papers properly made out that you hold against Holloway. I would advise you to go to England as soon as you can. I received this dispatch late on Saturday night.
ISAAC SIMPSON."

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Sept. 12, 1870.

JOHN M. LAWRENCE, Esq.:

DEAR SIR: On receipt of this, will you inform me if you are a brother of one Jasiel Lawrence, Esq., of this State; if so, if you are aware that the Lawrence-Townley estate of England has been awarded by the honorable Court of Chancery, London, England, to the said brother, Jasiel Lawrence? At the same time, have you at any time requested any member of your family relations to assign any portion of your interest in the said estate for a consideration of money advanced to your brother, Jasiel Lawrence, Esq., or at any time given your sanction for your brother to make over or assign any portion of your interest in the said Lawrence estate? Are you also aware your brother is in England, or supposed to be, at the present time? Your reply on receipt of this will much oblige,

Dear sir, yours most truly,

F. KNIVETON.

An abstract of a Letter written by the late Dr: T. C. Abraham, of West Troy, N. Y.

January 30th, 1878.

DEAR FRIEND:

With great pleasure do I answer your kind letter, just received. You wish to know if I thought there was an estate in England to settle. I am confident there is, and also I know that the American heirs can claim it.

About eighteen years ago I saw in an English paper that the Bank of England had finished their bank books examination (every few years), publicly crediting those who had money therein, and their calling in that paper for the heirs. There is every reason to believe that the estate left by Mary Townley, who married John Lawrence, and was the mother of Jonathan Lawrence, who married Hannah Robbins, is the true party to whom the Townley estate falls, and that the next heir under Mary is entitled. Then it must follow that the heirs under that estate are all dead. Then again, after such being the case, Mr. Lawrence being the only representative of such an estate, must be, and is the only present descendant, and consequently will recover the property. Nevertheless, it will require both money and perseverance to succeed. There have been so many claims to this property, all of which have failed, that now it is likely to be recovered by the present, who does appear to be the real and rightful claimants.

Understanding as I do, and according to the evidence produced, and facts certified, I feel satisfied as to the claim that Mr. Lawrence has. No doubt, by pushing the matter, as to the estate, on a vested interest, heirs of Mary T. Lawrence, of America, to present their claims for adjudication for 30,000,000 of dollars, then making over \$60,000,000 in cash, besides diamonds, silver plate, and jewels, put there by her mother for her on interest in her will, when she died her father's land went to the sons, but they died without heirs, leaving no one to claim it in England. The English Government wanted the land to keep for themselves, but their own laws gave it to his children in America, or elsewhere. So after thirty years they decided it hers, and then called for her heirs from America. I saw it in that English paper; also a friend of mine in Albany saw it in the English Court Records himself. He is a reliable man. The heirs called meetings. I went to New York to attend; they sent two men to England with the claims; they returned home, but gave us no satisfaction, but built houses and lived in fine style afterward. They were no doubt bought off.

They should have been heirs and have an interest in it themselves to do justice to us. Mr. Carver is a good lawyer, but no heir. He appears very gentlemanly indeed. Mr. W. T. Lawrence, of Lansingburgh, N. Y., has been to England to give his affidavits there as the oldest heir here.

I have seen him since his return, and he says as old as he is, he expects to see himself and his enjoy it very soon; he is sure of getting it, and further said that he intended to go to Europe again soon.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Abstract of Col. James F. Jacques' Letter, as published in the "Daily Ontario," Canada.

A letter has been received from Col. Jacques, dated London, October 8, 1879, stating that he had just returned to London from a tour of inspection of the estates known as Townley Hall, Howard estate, and Widdrington estate, and found over thirty thousand acres of improved lands, and city and village property, therefore yielding all a large revenue. That the three estates above named are lying in the counties of Cumberland, Durham, and Lancashire. That no claimant or owner has been on either of them during the knowledge of the oldest of the inhabitants living near them. And that the best barristers and legal advisers there advise him to enter and take possession of these estates at once, which can be done by the authority of Magna Charta. Once in possession of these lands, which includes the rentals, money, plate and jewels will follow as a matter of course. There is no one to oppose us now, and if any appear on the scene hereafter, they must eject us. To do this they must produce a better claim than we have, which no man on earth can do. This is fully determined: they mean to move on to victory certain. They mean to make no mistake. He also states that the Chancery Docket being clear the first of January, 1879, it will be again clear on the first of January, A. D., 1880, our case included.

A Copy of the Letter of Isaac Lawrence, the Delegate who was sent to London in 1856.

GARDINER, Maine, June 24, 1856.

MR. LAWRENCE.

SIR: Yours of the 20th is come to hand, and after reading its contents, will proceed to give you a history of the whole of my mission. I proceeded to London, and then went to St. Albans, to obtain, if possible, the marriage certificate of John Lawrence to ELIZABETH TOWNLEY, and after all my search in St. Albans, hunting up all the old church records, I found in 1743, September 14, the records were burnt on that day with the building, and could get no trace of the marriage. I then went to Doctors Commons to see about the property. I then found that John Townley, the father of Elizabeth, made his will in 1616, and he gave this daughter Elizabeth a large fortune. I have got a copy of this will; it is supposed that this party came to this country in 1635, and settled in Watertown, Mass. In 1636, in August, John Townley revised his will again, and he gives his property to his niece, one-half to his wife, and the rest to Catherine Townley, and leaves the rest of the children all out of the question. I then learned that a man in

London by the name of Porter (a) has claimed this estate through half blood kin, and has whipped the crown, and the week that I got there the crown was to pay over to Porter fifty-five thousand dollars in the first installment. My solicitor advised me to put an injunction that would stop the money in the crown's hands or the Bank of England, and that would give me a chance to hunt up the records, and I should have done it, IF I COULD HAVE FOUND THE MARRIAGE, but I COULD NOT. I could not find any record that ever this pair were married in that country; if we can, we can claim this large fortune through whole blood kin on the mother's half, and cause Porter to pay it back again. I then returned to Boston, and made my report to the Secretary of the Committee, and returned home, and have been looking for a notice in the papers for another meeting. I have a great many letters, etc. The heirs are very anxious to put this thing through. I expect to be in Boston the second day of July, and you can hear of me, 35 Harvard Street, Boston.

Should be highly pleased to see you in Boston at that time and place.

Report of the efforts made by the Massachusetts Branch.

The heirs of John Lawrence, of Watertown, Mass., met on the 17th inst. in Chapman Hall, Boston. The meeting was well attended, heirs being present from all parts of the country. The proceedings were very spirited and harmonious. It was the desire of all to have an immediate effort made to obtain correct information respecting the Townley estate. The report of the committee (which we annex) was adopted by a unanimous vote, and they were authorized to issue scrip to defray the expenses of an examination. We now seem to have a good basis to work upon, and it is the earnest desire of the committee that all who are interested will come forward at once and subscribe to the scrip (the price of which has been fixed at \$5.00, and guarantees to the holder \$50.00 from the first moneys received from the estate). Those wishing for one or more can remit the amount by mail to the Treasurer, C. B. RICHARDSON, 119 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

Truly yours,

ISAAC LAWRENCE, Gardiner, Me.
 AMBROSE ALLEN, Marblehead, Mass.
 DANIEL STONE, Malden, Mass.
 LIBERTY WELLINGTON, Ashby, "
 L. W. PERHAM, Woburn, "
 OTIS MERRIAM, Chelsea, "
 C. B. RICHARDSON, Boston, "
 JAMES RIDGEWAY, Esq., New York.
 R. E. SPRAGUE, Tyson Furnace, Vt.
 LEMUEL PIERCE, So. Londonderry, Vt.
 JOSHUA KENNISON, Fall River, Mass.

*Standing
 Committee.*

(a.) Mr. Porter is the gentleman who recovered the property of the Rev. William Townley, and has nothing whatever to do with the Townley and Lawrence case.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

BOSTON, April 17, 1856.

Your committee would beg to report that on the 28th of March, 1855, Mr. Isaac Lawrence, according to his instructions, sailed for England in steamer Africa, to obtain the will or wills of John Townley, and the certificate of marriage of John Lawrence. He arrived at Liverpool 7th of April, and immediately proceeded to London, thence to St. Albans, where it was reported the certificate could be found. He was informed by the parish clerk (who gave him his written affidavit that the statement was true) that the church and all its records were destroyed by fire on the 14th of September, 1743, and it would be impossible to obtain it, and he accordingly returned to London. After securing the assistance of a competent and reliable attorney, he visited the Doctors Commons, where he obtained copies of two wills, the first of which was made in 1616, and recorded 1624. The second was made and recorded 1636.

He was told that both of these were the wills of John Townley, senior, and that his daughter Elizabeth (the wife of John Lawrence) was disinherited. The wills being recorded in latin, your agent was obliged to rely entirely upon his attorney; being proved by John Townley, he felt confident that such was the case, and consequently gave up the search. Your agent found it very difficult and expensive obtaining information; the strictness of their laws and the jealousy with which they guard such claims, placed many obstacles in his way. Upon his return, he delivered copies of the wills into the hands of the secretary, and requested him to call a meeting of the heirs and report the result of his labors; but for good and sufficient reasons he delayed doing so, hoping to obtain further and more favorable information from the wills. Your committee met on the 3d of July, 1855, at the house of the secretary, and decided to have the wills translated. They were accordingly sent to a professional gentleman, and he informed them that the first was John Townley, senior, and the second John Townley, junior, and that the wife of John Lawrence was probably an heir to both estates. Your committee felt unwilling to let the matter rest, and accordingly met again on the 19th, and decided to make another effort to secure the marriage certificate; and by considerable exertion succeeded in raising fifty dollars, which they put into the hands of Mr. Henry Woodward, an English gentleman, who was about to proceed to England on business, and who was recommended to your committee as a suitable person to undertake it. Three letters have been received from him, but they give us nothing of importance, and your committee are led to believe that there is an opposing influence in England, which will prevent his securing satisfactory information. Your committee have spent much time and labor in examining records, and during the past winter they were brought

in correspondence with a gentleman of talent and respectability, who has had twelve years' experience in collecting property in England, and prosecuting claims for American citizens. Desiring to confer with him upon the matter, they appointed a meeting on the 13th of March, at Chelsea, Mass. Nearly all of your committee were present, and after a few hours' consultation they were more than ever convinced that it was their duty to call a meeting of the heirs, report their proceedings, and to urge them to make an immediate and vigorous effort to obtain correct and satisfactory information respecting those estates.

Your committee are of the opinion, from what facts they have been able to gather, that there is property in England belonging to the heirs of John Lawrence, of Watertown, and they would recommend—after consulting parties who have pursued the same course successfully—that the heirs authorize the issuing of scrip, to be the first lien on moneys received from the estate to defray the expenses of examining the claim. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Extracts from the Historical Genealogy of the Lawrence Family, by Thomas Lawrence, 1858, pages 120 to 124 inclusive.

LAWRENCE AND TOWNLEY CONNECTION.

Extracted from the documents of Lewis P. Hunt, on his return from England in November, 1857, which is the most reliable information that has yet been made public in relation to the above-named families.

The Townley estate is of many millions, and situated in Lancashire.

The Lawrence estate is in Chancery.

The two families of Lawrence and Townley are connected by the marriage of JOSEPH Lawrence with Mary Townley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley of England, who was possessed of considerable estate in Lancashire.

The foundation of this family of the Townleys is this :

Richard Townley, Esq., the ancestor of Townley of Lancaster, born in 1628, married Margaret Paston, daughter of Clemant Paston, Esq., of Barnington, in Norfolk, and had thirteen children.

William Townley, Esq., of Townley, grandson and successor to the above Richard, was married to the only daughter and sole heir of Ralph Standish, Esq., of Standish, by Lady Philippa Howard, daughter of Henry Howard, sixth Duke of Norfolk, and are consequently connected—

The Lawrence Estate and Townley ;

The Townley Estate and Standish ;

And the Lawrence Estate.

Not one of those three estates has been settled yet. So, upon proving the relationship to one of those three families—Lawrence, Townley, and

Standish—this relation would, by possibility, be entitled to those three estates.

Those two names, John and Joseph, keep in the family, and found in the Lawrence pedigree of England, first reason to believe that there is a connection between these two families.

The date, of the marriage and the birth are also perfectly corresponding.

This Richard, the son of Joseph, was married in 1717. He must be supposed to be born about from 1680 to 1690.

The brothers formerly said to have gone to America about 1635.

This Joseph was son, no doubt, to one of those two brothers.

We must conclude, from these premises and facts, that the pedigree from America, as descending from William Lawrence and Elizabeth Smith, as being the father and mother of Joseph Lawrence and Mary Townley, who have great chance of success.

The great point in that matter should be to IDENTIFY the FIRST ancestor, William Lawrence, to the SECOND ancestor, Joseph Lawrence, as being connected with this American Lawrence family, as originally coming from England. One strong opinion is, that the pedigree in the Lawrence case, of the Lawrence and Townley and Hunt families, has the greater chance of success. In corroboration of this present statement and conclusion, it should appear useful, and indeed indispensable, to examine separately first, and after comparatively with the American pedigree, all the other pedigrees of the Lawrence families in England, either produced into court or communicated between the solicitors of the case. There are about twenty-five pedigrees produced, and all the pedigrees produced before the court till the present time have failed, or could not be proved in any way. And all the pedigrees being in the hands of the solicitors, or known in the case, could not establish any solid claim.

It has been stated in the various debates that the three brothers died leaving no children in England. This capital point proves that, in order to trace out the Lawrence pedigree, it may be only by the descendants, that is to say, the ancestors. The documents of the said Lewis P. Hunt states that there is therein enumerated the various sources and records, were it not only possible but quite sure to find the necessary evidence.

We beg most respectfully to submit the following form of identity to the Lawrence and Townley families for the benefit of all families interested : In the *first* place, to identify the FIRST ancestor, William Lawrence, with the SECOND ancestor, JOSEPH Lawrence, we produce the certificate of license for the marriage of Mr. William Lawrence and Elizabeth Smith, and letters of administration granted to Elizabeth Lawrence,

the widow of William Lawrence, deceased, together with a conveyance of the said Elizabeth Lawrence in execution of her trust, as also a certificate of guardianship of her seven children. We claim this to be the strongest proof of the identity of Elizabeth Lawrence, *alias* Carterett, *alias* Townley, as the lawful wife of William Lawrence first above named.

Secondly. By quit claim deed, made by Joseph Lawrence, of Flushing, to Joseph Bonny, of Woodbridge, in the province of East New Jersey, in the year 1735, as identifying the second ancestor, Joseph Lawrence, with the said Elizabeth Lawrence, above identified as the lawful wife of the first ancestor, William Lawrence, who came over from England to America, as aforesaid. This completes the identity of the FIRST ancestor, William Lawrence, with the FIFTH ancestor, Josiah Hunt. All the above parties we claim to be established by first-class testimony, and the strongest known to the Federal law, except the marriage of JOSEPH Lawrence with Mary Townley, and of that we have a traditionary account from our forefathers, together with Holgate's Genealogy of distinguished families, and letters from H. G. Summerby, Esq., of London, and the Honorable Ex-Governor William Beach Lawrence, of Newport, Rhode Island, to Mr. Thomas Lawrence, of Providence, Rhode Island. In corroboration of the statements made in said letter, as also Holgate's Genealogy hereinbefore mentioned, we beg to offer and claim as corroborating testimony the signature of JOSEPH Lawrence, and Mary, his wife, in their own proper handwriting, subscribed to the certificate of marriage of their eldest son, Richard Lawrence, with Hannah Bowne, as witnesses thereto.

The two above-named estates, Townley and Standish, descend to the Lawrence family, by intermarriage in the following manner, to wit: Cecilia, daughter of Ralph Standish, Esq., and Philippa Howard, became before her death the sole heiress of her grandfather, Henry Howard, SIXTH DUKE OF NORFOLK. The said Cecilia Standish married Sir William Townley; by said marriage the property became vested in the Townley family; and by defect of heirs, descends to Mary Townley, who married JOSEPH Lawrence.

CHAPTER III.

UNCLAIMED MILLIONS.

A VAST ESTATE IN LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND, AWAITING CLAIMANTS.

MARY TOWNLEY'S CONFESSION.

HOW HER RUNAWAY MARRIAGE BROUGHT THE HEIRS TO AMERICA.

Probably no one estate in England has engrossed the attention of so many families in the United States and the Canadas, as has the estate called at various times the "Townley Lawrence," "Townley Stevens," "Townley Williams," and "Townley Chase" estate. I feel that the confession of Mary Stevens, of Canterbury, Connecticut, together with many facts tending to substantiate its truth, should be given to the public as a matter of historical interest to very many American families.

This document has long been in the hands of the Stevens family, who regard it as authentic and believe its contents to be true. Mary Stevens, wife of Robert Stevens, lived for many years in Canterbury, Conn. She died December 7, 1804, aged seventy-eight, and was buried in the town of East Thompson, Conn., having borne nine children. She was a woman of distinguished piety and goodness, and was respected and loved by all who knew her. Of her children, Sylvia was born in Canterbury, March 25, 1763, and was married, in Pomfret, Conn., to Chester Ingalls, April 4th, 1784. By this marriage, Pamela, or Polly, Ingalls, was born in Pomfret, August 27, 1785, to whom her mother told the following history, which the descendants have known for many years as the "Confession of Mary Townley, of Lancashire."

When I, Pamela Ingalls, now Pamela Cutting, wife of Abijah Cutting, was eighteen years of age, my mother, Sylvia Ingalls, told me the following history from her mother, Mary Stevens.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

In the year 1794, your father, Ingalls, and myself, brother Samuel Stevens and wife, paid a visit to brother Robert Stevens, residing in Canterbury, Conn. My mother, Mary Stevens, lived with him at that time. One day, during our visit, my mother led me aside, telling me in tears that she had something important to reveal.

This is as near what she told me as I can remember, not having copied it.

My dear daughter, I have been very ill, and fear I may never see you again, as we live widely apart. I do not know what my children may think, but hope they will forgive me when I tell them that they have not known their correct names. My father and mother lived in England.

My father was Lord John Townley, of Lancashire ; my mother's maiden name was Mary Lawrence, sister to John Lawrence. My mother (Mary Lawrence) was possessed of a large property before she married John Townley. I myself had property in my own name, when I left my father Townley's house. Francis Townley, a relative of ours, was beheaded in 1746. The government, at the time of the execution, set aside a portion of Francis Townley's estate for the heirs of Mary Lawrence Townley, the remainder of his estate being given to her sister Dorothy, who married Lord Effingham.

They died without issue, and Lord Effingham willed his property to Mary Lawrence Townley's heirs. The title (Lord Effingham) was derived from the district he represented. When I resided at my father's home, my property and my sister's property was in my mother Townley's possession, in trust, and I should have had it if I had needed it. But when I left home I did not dare claim it, as my intentions to leave might have been suspected. When I left home my sister, who was the only heir to my father's and my mother's property beside myself, was very sick with consumption. My uncle, John Lawrence, my mother's brother, is a merchant living in Norfolk, Va. His wealth is estimated at £500,000.

Ever since I became five years of age, my uncle, John Lawrence, promised my father and my mother that his property should be mine, and after I became old enough he told me the same thing many times.

He traded with this country before I came here to live. Since I have resided in Connecticut I have seen uncle John Lawrence's advertisements for me in the papers. I knew my uncle was my friend ; but from what had happened I did not have courage to let him know where I was, for fear we might be taken home, and your father would suffer severely for running away with me.

Your father's correct name was Williams. His father's family lived within the borders of our neighborhood. Young Williams became acquainted with me. I loved him and promised I would marry him. When my father heard of this he forbade our marriage. Williams' father also forbade our marriage. We tried to persuade them to relent, but could not do so, and our affection for each other being strong and sincere we ran away; took ship, and came to this country.

I brought with me my mother Townley's Bible. It had in it the records of her family and relatives and the memorandum of her estate, with other records. I also brought with me one of my mother's gold locket. She had three lockets exactly alike. Each of us children had gold beads, with a locket attached. Each of the lockets had engraved on it the coat of arms of our family. My mother often told me that it was a custom in England, when there was a large property, if it was not settled while the giver was living, to leave some token with it for proof of heirship. I have always understood at home that these lockets were given to my sister and myself for that purpose.

FACILITY FOR CHANGING NAMES.

When my husband and myself went on board ship we were afraid to have our proper names put upon the passenger list; so I told my husband to have his name registered as John Lawrence, the name of my uncle.

The rest of my husband's family, knowing that my father Townley could prove their knowledge of our plan to elope, and that their punishment for not informing him would be severe, being by name John and Mary Williams, took their brother Joseph, eight years of age, and followed us, and we all came to America together. We were married a short time after we landed. When the minister asked my husband's name he gave him the name of his youngest brother Joseph, not daring to give his own for fear we might be traced, and trouble would come of it. So my name was placed upon the marriage record with the name of Joseph Williams. We moved from place to place, and finally settled in Canterbury, Conn. Fearing pursuit from England, we called our names Robert and Mary Stevens, the only names my children have ever known. When I had a family of children, four sons and five daughters, my husband left me, and I have never seen him since. I have kept my mother's locket very choice. My children have seldom seen it. When I was sick last year at my son Robert's house, I left it in his wife's possession. She does not know the value of it. If the other locket is left with the property, as will be the case, this one will be proof of my heirship. There is a spring to open it on the back, showing the coat-of-arms and name. I want you to see it. After dinner I will explain to you more. I (Sylvia Ingalls) did not expect to leave mother's house on that day, but after dinner my brother Samuel and wife, who had planned to visit some other relatives, determined to start immediately, and hurried me to get ready so as to reach the house they were to visit before the storm began, which there were threatening indications of. I promised my mother to return to her house on my way home.

At Robert Stevens' house I asked his wife to show me the locket. She

did so. It was broken, and she asked me not to tell mother about it. The part the coat-of-arms was on was broken in three pieces.

After our visit to our other relative's house, brother Samuel and wife determined to go home by another way.

I have never seen my mother since. I believe mother told me that Lord Townley (the husband of Mary Lawrence) received the name of Townley with the property title, but that she could not remember what his former name was. His property was not large before he married Mary Lawrence.

The property came to her. Mother was very particular to tell me that the property was called the Townley estate. Of the three brothers and one sister (Williams) who came from England to America, one married widow Mary Dean, in Canterbury, and they moved to Plainfield, Conn.

She was a Lawrence before she was married.

The youngest brother (Joseph) married Experience Lawrence, of Plainfield, Conn. My father changed names with this brother when the above marriage took place, Joseph resuming his own Christian name, and retaining it to his death. I am not sure whether mother said the other brother's name was John or not, but I think she did.

Mary Williams, the sister of the three brothers, married a Driar. Her son, Joseph Driar, joined the Shakers, at Enfield, N. H. I remember distinctly that mother repeatedly said the place she had lived in, in England, and where her home was, was Lancashire.

THE MISSING LOCKET.

There are still living (or were a few years since) many persons who heard the foregoing history from the lips of Pamela Ingalls, and there is no reason to doubt but that she had it from her mother, who, in turn, had it from Mary Stevens, as there could have been no possible motive for either to deceive. That the story is not just as Mary Stevens related it, is probable, from the fact that Sylvia Ingalls did not tell it to her daughter Pamela until she was eighteen years of age, or in 1803, nine years after she had received it from Mary Stevens. As she then related it from memory, whatever discrepancies may be found in it can fairly be excused. Now, returning to Mary Stevens, of Canterbury, let us see what can be found tending to substantiate her story. First, we note that her statement that "she moved from place to place" with her husband, previous to settling in Canterbury, and that their name was changed to avoid pursuit, is seemingly corroborated by the fact that diligent search fails to reveal any record of the birth of her son, Robert Stevens, Jr., whose daughter Lydia testifies that her father told her he was ten years of age when his parents came to Canterbury. Again, John Hatha-

way Stevens, son of Mary Stevens, born in Canterbury, September 20, 1766, was a man of distinguished mien and marked ability. He was settled over the Congregational Church in the thriving town of S——, Mass. He was a man thoroughly honored and loved by all who knew him, and he held many important trusts. It may fairly be presumed that such a man would leave no means untried to learn something of his immediate ancestry; but to all his inquiry concerning his grandparents, his mother would invariably reply that she came from a distinguished family across the water, and more than this she never told him. Besides this, it is well known to the descendants that Darius Stevens, another son of Mary Stevens, killed at Bunker Hill, and the remaining children, were equally ignorant of their ancestry until the time of this confession. Furthermore, as to the locket mentioned in the confession, Sylvia Stevens Ingalls states that she saw it, and that there was a coat of arms engraved upon it. And she makes this emphatic, by stating that the part that had the coat of arms upon it was broken in three pieces. Mary Starr, a granddaughter of Mary Stevens, who was with her during her last illness, was given the charge of this locket without the knowledge of its importance. Sylvia Stevens Ingalls, having moved to the State of Ohio, she (Mary Starr) gave it to her sister, who, likewise not knowing its value as an heirloom, sold it.

Unfortunately, an exact description of this locket is not extant, but enough is known of it to show that it was of the purest gold, of an oval shape, with a knot the size of a pin head upon the back. On the face of it was engraved the coat of arms of an English family. It was not thick, and was concave upon the back, to fit the throat.

The catch to hold the beads had a slot on one side, and on the other side were two perforations.

The diagram from which this description is copied, is about the size of an oval postage stamp, and was made by Mary Starr. No trace has ever been found of the family Bible mentioned in the confession. As to John Lawrence, who Mary Stevens states in her confession to have been her uncle, and who lived in Norfolk, Va., we find the following next of kin advertisement, inserted by order of the British Government, in 1831, in the *London Gazette*:

If the next of kin of John Lawrence, formerly of Buckland, County of Gloucester, afterward of Liverpool, in the County of Lancaster, but late of Norfolk, in the State of Virginia, United States of America, a bachelor deceased (who died in or about the month of December, 1814), will apply either personally, or by letter, to George Maule, Esq., Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, at No. 5 Storr Buildings, Lincolnshire Inn, London, they may hear of something to their advantage.

JOINING THE BROKEN LINKS.

In 1853 the solicitor stated that the above estate was a large property worth trying for, but would not state its approximate value. Mary Stevens further states, that of the three brothers of her husband who came from England with her, the youngest of them married Experience Lawrence, of Plainfield, Conn., and, at the time of his marriage, resumed his original Christian name, Joseph.

We find from the town records of Plainfield, that "Joseph Williams and Experience Lawrence were joined together in marriage, March ye 6, 1758." From this union were born Judah Williams, August 31, 1760, and Noah Williams, June 20, 1762.

Perhaps the descendants of these parties may be able to give some information as to the names of the brothers of their ancestor, Joseph, and as to their movements after they left England.

Information is in the possession of the writer that the other of the three Williams brothers, John by name, married widow Mary Dean in Canterbury, as stated by Mary Stevens. They had one son, John, who lived and died in Hanover, N. H.

He was often heard to speak of the "Townley estate," and asserted that the story of Mary Stevens was true. From the above, it will be seen that the history of her family, as given by Mary Stevens, is better than fiction, and that there is good reason for believing that her account of herself and doings is in the main correct. The Lawrence, Chase, and Townley families, have at different times laid claim to this estate, but the members of the Stevens family have never taken any decided action in the matter. The delegates sent to England by the former families have never accomplished much in the way of search, as we believe, for two essential reasons: namely, want of funds, and a properly directed method of procedure. That there is a large and unclaimed property in the hands of the British Government, awaiting the heirs of Mary Townley, or Mary Townley-Lawrence, we believe to be true beyond a doubt.

This property has been variously estimated at from \$30,000,000 to \$100,000,000. In the early part of the present century, an advertisement appeared, calling for the heirs to this estate, who were supposed to be living in America. In reply to a letter of inquiry directed by the writer to the Solicitor of Her Majesty's Treasury, Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, London, some fourteen years ago, the following communication was received:

TREASURY, Feb. 15, 1866.

SIR ——— TOWNLEY: In answer to your letter of the 30th ult., I have to acquaint you that I can give you no information respecting the property of Mary Townley.

THOMAS BAMFORD.

Mr. ———, U. S. A.

It will be noticed that in this letter the solicitor does not deny the existence of a property of Mary Townley (which the letter of inquiry was calculated to provoke, if no such property existed), but simply states that he "can give no information respecting the property."

The will of Lord Effingham, as far as the writer knows, has not been found in the examinations so far made; so that Mary Stevens' statement that he willed his property to her mother's heirs, is not contradicted, even if not substantiated.

Let us see how the history of the family, as given by Mary Stevens, tallies with the Townley family of Lancashire, remembering all the while that Sylvia Stevens Ingalls, without having taken notes, repeated this story from memory, nine years after she had received it from her mother. In the confession we read thus:

My father and my mother lived in England.

"My father was Lord John Townley. My mother's maiden name was Mary Lawrence, sister to John Lawrence."

Now, if we change this a little it will read thus:

My father and mother lived in England. My father was ——— Lawrence. My mother's maiden name was Mary Townley, sister-in-law to John Lawrence. By reading it thus we shall have Mary Stevens' maiden name, Mary Lawrence, or Mary Townley Lawrence (as the case might be), niece to John Lawrence, and cousin to Colonel Francis Townley, which change would seem to be admissible, for the reason that Mary Stevens says that her mother's sister Dorothy married Lord Effingham, and the records of Lancashire show that Dorothy Townley married Lord Effingham, and do not show who her sister Mary married. Moreover, Sylvia Ingalls states that "mother was very particular to tell me that the property was called the Townley estate," and believed that her mother also told her "that Lord Townley, the husband of Mary Lawrence, received the name of Townley with the property title, and was not wealthy before he married Mary Lawrence." Now, this could not be if the maiden name of Mary Stevens' mother was Mary Lawrence, as she would in such case have no claim to a Townley estate; and, as Mary Stevens is explicit in her statement as to what the property was called, there can be but one inference drawn, viz.: that Sylvia Ingalls did not remember correctly what her mother told her.

PROSPECTIVE PROFITABLE SEARCH.

If the will of Lord Effingham could be found, or it could be ascertained what became of the property of Colonel Francis Townley, this question of names could probably be determined. There is

good reason for believing that there never has been a properly directed search among the records in Lancashire for evidence that would throw light on this confession. If Mary Lawrence, or Mary Townley Lawrence, or, as the confession states, "Mary Townley, daughter of Lord John Townley," was born in Lancashire, her birth is probably there registered, as well as her christening. The reader's attention is also called to the strength of the fact that this confession was made in 1794, long before any of the present means of easy communication existed, in an obscure country village, by an obscure woman, and that it contains matter that could hardly have been known to her, unless she was the person she described herself to be.

The records of Lancashire show clearly that the Townley, Lawrence, and Ashton families were near neighbors, and intermarried in several generations. There is an old adage that "where there is so much smoke there must be some fire," and we believe this adage is very applicable to this case. It would be impossible in a limited space to give more than a part of the information the writer is possessed of, tending to corroborate the truth of the foregoing confession.

Enough has been given to show that the members of the Stevens family have good reason for believing that they are descended from the Townley family of Lancashire, and are entitled to a property left them by their English ancestors. Articles concerning this estate have appeared in the columns of the press at various times from 1846 to the present year in connection with the names of Lawrence, Chase and Townley. But we believe there has never been anything printed as to the claim of the Stevens family.

The above is the published statement of F. A. Hill.

CHAPTER IV.

EXTRACTS FROM THE OFFICIAL RECORDS AT LONDON, ENGLAND.

Other parties interested had other theories as to the fund, estate and the ancestors, but as these were not made known to me, and as I had no other knowledge, I was compelled to adopt the above theories, as they came from apparently authentic sources.

It was also asserted that advertisements had repeatedly appeared in the English newspapers, calling for the heirs of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his wife.

It was further said that the money had been invested in annuities, and that the annuity list had been published by the English authorities invariably calling for the said heirs, and it was further stated that lists of unclaimed moneys in the Bank of England and Court of Chancery had frequently been published, and that the names of Mary Townley Lawrence always appeared in them. So convincing has been the belief in the existence of this fund, that several associations composed of the descendants of John and Joseph Lawrence, also William Chase and Mary, their supposed wife (your own among the number) have been formed, and have sent delegates to England, to make the requisite investigations, and to institute proceedings necessary to recover it.

Among these the Townley and Lawrence Association of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. G. W. Chase, the delegate who was sent to London in the interest of the Chase Association, and that of the Western Townley and Lawrence Association, of Dayton, Ohio, have been the foremost. They have made elaborate statements of the result of their investigations, which were transmitted to and received by the different members of the Lawrence and Chase family as entirely reliable.

Their report seemed to be entirely accurate; in fact there was no reason to doubt them; they were corroborated inferentially by all the accounts received from other sources, and the details of the investigations inspired confidence. Your association relied upon it, and no blame can be attached to you for such reliance. You would have apparently been false to the object and purpose of your organization, if you had not taken measures to protect what thus appeared to be the vital interests of your

constituency. Of course you had no means of judging the correctness of these statements as to the genealogy and so forth, but the showing as to the fund was such as to demand action upon your part. Believing that your interests should be represented by some one who was devoted to them exclusively, you honored me with an offer of employment to ascertain definitely whether such an unclaimed fund existed, and if it did, then to ascertain further to whom it belonged, and what would be the most expeditious and certain way of recovering it, or in short to take all proper measures in your behalf, and to file a bill of discovery, if advisable.

The first thing to ascertain was as to the existence of the alleged fund in the **Bank of England** or the **Court of Chancery** to the credit of any person whatever, by the name of **LAWRENCE, CHASE, or TOWNLEY**.

This you will see was no easy matter to ascertain, as there are many obstacles and embarrassments in the way. Among the most serious of these are the official regulations of the various public offices, which amounts almost to prohibiting of all inquiry. I quote them, to wit :

The rules prescribed by the **Master** of the **Rolls** respecting the **Chancery Master's Documents** in his charge and superintendence, passed pursuant to **STAT. 40 AND 41, VIC., CHAP. 55**.

I. "Any person wishing to inspect, or have copies of the **Chancery Master's Documents**, shall address a petition to the **Master** of the **Rolls**, stating the nature and object of the search."

II. "Except under special circumstances, no persons will be allowed to inspect, or have copies of the documents, unless he satisfies the **Master** of the **Rolls**, by *prima facie* evidence, either that he claims under one of the parties to the cause, who, if living, would be entitled to inspect the documents, or that he would be a person entitled to revive the cause if it were effective, or that he has a right to the documents themselves."

III. "The **Master** of the **Rolls**, should he see no objections to the application, will then, subject to the consent of the **Treasury** being obtained by the parties, give the necessary permission."

IV. "The fees are the same as that of the regulations of the **Master** of the **Rolls**."

24th May, 1875.

[Signed]

G. JESSEL, M. R.

Sept. 26th, 1877.

ORIGIN OF THE **Accountant General's Office**, AND THE FUNDS UNDER HIS CONTROL.

In the olden times the Masters in Chancery had the custody of all moneys and effects deposited in Court in suits referred to them, and the Usher took charge of any property brought into Court in suits which had

not been referred to one of the Masters. The Masters and the Ushers were responsible for all moneys and other property received by them, and were bound to distribute the property so intrusted to them by orders of the Court. In the meantime they employed the money in their hands for their own benefit. This practice continued until the bursting of the South Sea Bubble, when it was found that several of the Masters were defaulters.

A remarkable trial (reported in *State Trials*, vol. 16,) was the result, and ended in the then Lord Chancellor (Lord Macclesfield) being fined £30,000. The default of the Masters amounted to over £100,000; this default was made good by increased fees on the suitors, and stringent precautions were taken to prevent the recurrence of such a scandal. Each Master was directed by an order of the Lord Chancellor, dated 17th December, 1724, to procure and send to the Bank of England a chest with one lock, and hasps for two padlocks; the key of the lock to be kept by the Master, the key of one of the padlocks by one of the six Clerks in Chancery, and the key of the other by the Governor or Cashier of the Bank. Each Master was ordered to deposit in his chest all moneys and securities in his hands belonging to the Suitors, and the chests were then to be locked up and left in the custody of the Bank, and to be so kept that the Masters might have easy access thereto under orders of the Court. This plan did not work well, for it was found that by the rules of the Bank of England the vault where the chests were kept could not be opened unless two of the Directors were present with their keys, and it soon was found that great trouble, difficulty and expense would be occasioned to the Suitors by requiring the attendance of no less than five officials whenever any of the chests had to be opened to deliver out effects and to receive the interest due. In 1725, therefore, a General Order was made directing that all money and effects should be taken from the Master's chest and given into the custody of the Bank. Duplicate accounts were to be kept at the Bank and at the Chancery Report Office, and any dealing with the Suitor's money was to be certified to the Report Office.

Another General Order extended the plan to moneys and effects in the custody of the Usher of the Court.

In 1726, the first Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery was appointed, and all funds in the custody of the Masters or Ushers were transferred to his charge. An act of Parliament, passed in 1725, gives power to appoint an Accountant-General, and contains elaborate provisions with reference to the custody and safety of the Suitor's Funds.

Having thus glanced at the origin of the office of Accountant-General to the Court of Chancery, a word or two as to the funds dealt with by

the Court may not be out of place here. From the Annual Budget of the Paymaster-General it appears that the receipts for the year ending 31st August, 1876, added to the securities then in Court, made up a grand total of more than ninety millions sterling (£90,000,000), and that after deducting payments during the year there remained in hand more than seventy millions sterling (£70,000,000), exclusive of foreign currencies of the value of about £400,000. These enormous sums were mainly thus invested :

	£	s.	d.
Consolidated 3 per cent. Annuities, - - -	46,873,023	1	9
Cash (about one-third on deposit), - - -	4,920,151	1	11
Reduced 3 per cent. Annuities, - - -	5,612,742	6	7
New 3 per cent. Annuities, - - - - -	7,624,462	6	0

The residue was made up of India Stock Exchequer Bills, Metropolitan Consolidated Stock, and stocks of most of the leading Railway, Dock and other Companies.

The whole field was untrodden. I found it a labyrinth which I was compelled to explore in darkness and with obstructions and confusions on every side.

I have explored it, nevertheless, and now that I have done so, I am reluctantly and regretfully forced to admit that all that which was told me and reported by my predecessors is entirely unwarranted and incorrect, and that my search was unprofitable, although not useless.

After years of conscientious and assiduous labor under the most trying circumstances, I have thoroughly satisfied myself, that there is no fund now in the **Bank of England**, or the **Court of Chancery**, in the name of **MARY TOWNLEY LAWRENCE**, or **Mary T. Chase**, or belonging by descent to any members of our or other similar associations. Naturally, upon hearing this, the mind of every reader will immediately revert to the \$500,000,000, which was affirmed to be in keeping of the **Chancery Court**, for the heirs of **MARY TOWNLEY**, the wife of **John Lawrence**, or **William Chase**, and it will be asked from what source that information was obtained.

In answering this, it is as well to at once explain the advertisement and annuity fallacies, as they are all of a piece with this.

There are several parties in London who publish books relative to "Unclaimed Money, Next of Kin, &c." I have examined those of them that I thought it material to, and I am positive that there is no foundation whatever for the statement, nor is the **Lawrence Chase Townley** estate mentioned at all in connection therewith, and finally there is no such estate as the **Lawrence, Chase and Townley** estate mentioned in any of the said books at all.

Moreover, the clerk in the K to T department of the Accountant General's Office, informed me that certain persons had been told repeatedly by him, after search, that there was not then, and never had been, any such fund.

The motives which prompted this deception upon a large body of expectant people wholly without the means of detecting it, cannot be too strongly characterized. I have found many others of the statements made and published, to be equally unwarranted, and nearly all of them to be more or less misleading.

Next in order of fallacies are the alleged advertisements for the Lawrence, Chase and Townley heirs, to which I have before referred. There is no substance in them. The most important statement as to them was that an official advertisement had appeared in the LONDON TIMES, APRIL 6TH, 1827, signed by the Paymaster-General of the Court of Chancery, calling on the heirs of MARY TOWNLEY-LAWRENCE to make themselves known at his office, and to receive a very large sum of money.

An examination of the paper of that date shows that there is no such advertisement.

Having disposed of that, I next turned my attention to the calls of next of kin, and found this basis in them, in a book published by Mr. Preston, entitled:

“Index to ‘Heirs-at-Law,’ next of kin, owners of unclaimed money, legatees or their representatives in Chancery suits, which have been advertised for during the last 150 years, etc.”

There is a numerical reference to fifteen advertisements for persons of the name of Lawrence and Townley. “Not a single one for the Chase’s.” This book is here also for inspection. I procured the full facts as to each of these advertisements, and give them herewith.

“TOWNLEY.”

1st. “1842—Wanted, Eliz. Townley, a daughter, and John Townley, a son of Arthur and Mary Townley, formerly of Whilton, County Northampton, or, if dead, their representatives. The former was in service in London in 1795, and the latter was supposed to have been placed on board H. M. S. Enterprise the same year.”

2d. “1854—The heirs of Rev. Geo. Townley, who in 1774 was a lecturer, and afterwards of St. Antholin, London; also for the heirs of Robt. Townley, who was living in Crawford Street, London, in 1829, and of his brother, Geo. Townley, who was alive at that time.”

3d. Rev. Geo. Stephen Townley, of Walbrook, London, 1805.

4th. Rev. Henry Townley, of Ramsgate, Kent Co., 1815.

5th. 1854—For the next of kin of Mrs. Eliz. James, sole executrix and devisee of John Townley, who died in Lambeth Co., Surry, in 1776.

“LAWRENCE.”

1st. In 1820, in the *London Gazette*, is an advertisement by the High Court of Chancery for Mary Lawrence, Mary Burton, John Lawrence and Michael Lawrence, children of Joseph Lawrence.

2d. *London Gazette*, 1834—“If the next of kin of Ann Lawrence, formerly of Bishop Startford, in the County of Herts, and lately of Crescent, Albany Road, Walworth, in the County of Surry, will apply to Mr. Surr, 80 Lombard Street, they will hear of something to their advantage.”

3d. *London Gazette*, 1796, is an advertisement for the first, second and third cousins of Richard Lawrence, of Southampton, to prove their pedigree, etc.

4th. *London Gazette*, 1795—“Pursuant to a decree of the Court of Chancery, bearing date the 5th day of February, 1793, in a cause “Lawrence, et al, vs. Dixon, et al,” the next of kin of Thomas Lawrence, late of Philadelphia, Pa., schoolmaster, and who afterwards lived at Mount Holly, in the County of Burlington, and province of West New Jersey, in U. S. A., and who were living at the time of the death of Elizabeth Hall, late of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent, widow, deceased, which happened on the 13th day of June, 1785; and also the representatives of such next of kin (if any), are forthwith to communicate and make out their kindred representatives before Alexander Popham, Esq., one of the Masters of the said Court, at his chambers in Simon’s Inn, Chancery Lane, London, to whom the said case stands referred; or in default thereof, they will be excluded the benefit of said decree.

6th. Pursuant to a Decree of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause “Lawrence vs. Maule,” such of the next of kin of John Lawrence, late of Norfolk, Va., in United States, merchant deceased, as were living at the time of his death (which happened in the year 1814), and also the legal, personal representatives, or such of them (if any) as have since died, on or before the 8th of August, 1850, to come in and make out their, his, or her claim or claims, as such next of kin, or legal personal representatives, before William H. Timeey, Esq., one of the Masters of the said Court, at his chambers, etc.; or in default thereof, they will be excluded the benefit of the said decree, London, 1850.

7th. 2,614—Mary, John, and Michael Lawrence, legatees of Joseph.

8th. 5,178—William Lawrence, 1815, heirs wanted.

9th. John Lawrence, died at Worcester, England, 1804.

10th. Sarah Lawrence, otherwise Bennett, died 1840.

11th. William Lawrence, died abroad, date unknown.

The advertisement No. 6, for John Lawrence, at once attracted my attention. It was evident, at a glance, that neither of the others related to your John Lawrence and Mary Townley.

But I thought this came nearer, on the face of it, to the object of my search, than any other, and I thought it highly probable that this claim, now settled, was similar to ours, and as John Lawrence died in 1814, his claim must have been in Chancery a long time before his death, or probably began by his ancestors, and by him continued, under testimony of the strongest character; but he died thirty years before a decision, and the case was probably one hundred years or more in Chancery.

I afterwards discovered that the case was in no way connected with your ancestors. I shall hereafter give reasons for this. It is a common custom in England to advertise in this manner for debtors and witnesses who have absconded, or whose residences are unknown, and to endeavor to get services of summons in suits upon secreted defendants, and for a variety of similar purposes.

AS TO THE ALLEGED ANNUITIES.

Having exhausted the advertisements, the next thing to be examined was the list of unclaimed annuities, upon which so much had been predicted.

In order to understand this list, it is necessary to state the law which governs unclaimed dividends upon annuities.

By an Act of Parliament passed 56 Geo. III, Chap. 60, it was provided, that all capital stock, upon which dividends should remain unclaimed for the space of at least ten years at the Bank of England should be by the bank transferred to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the dividends upon it thereafter unclaimed should also be paid to them.

The first Act was afterward amended, 9th July, 1845, 9 Vict. I have the amended bills here for inspection.

SEC. I.—Provides, that after any such stock or dividends have been thus paid over, it may be repaid to claimants under certain conditions.

SEC. II.—Provides that three months' notice must be given by advertisement before transfer or payment of any stock or dividend to any claimant when the amount exceeds £20.

SEC. III.—Any person may apply to the Court of Chancery to rescind or vary any order before actual re-transfer or payment.

SEC. V.—The Lords of the Treasury may authorize inquiries into the circumstances of unclaimed stocks and dividends whenever necessary.

Sec. 52 provides that, immediately after every such transfer, the following particulars shall be entered in a list to be kept by the bank : (1) The name in which the stock stood immediately before the transfer ; (2) the residence and description of the parties ; (3) the amount trans-

ferred, and (4) the date of the transfer. Such list to be open for inspection at the usual hours of transfer ; duplicates of each list to be kept at the office of the National Debt Commissioners.

Sec. 54 deals with subsequent dividends. It provides that where stock is transferred, all dividends accruing thereon after the transfer shall be paid to the National Debt Commissioners, and shall be from time to time invested by them in the purchase of other like stock, to be placed to their account of unclaimed dividends. All such dividends, and the stock arising from the public investment thereof, shall be held by those Commissioners for, and subject to, the claims of the parties entitled thereto.

Sec. 55 relates to re-transferred, and payment to persons showing title; it is in substance as follows :

Re-transfer may be made to any person showing his right thereto. In case the authorities are dissatisfied with the claimant's title, he may by petition, in a summary way, state and verify his claims to the Courts of Chancery, and the Courts may make such order thereon, touching the stock, dividends and costs of application, as to the Court seems just.

Sec. 59. It may be desirable to give this section *in extenso*, as it relates to cases where a second claimant appears :

Where any stock or dividends, having been re-transferred or paid, as aforesaid, to a claimant by either bank, is or are afterward claimed by another person, the bank and their officers shall not be responsible for the same to such other claimant, but he may have recourse against the person to whom the re-transfer or payment was made.

Sec. 60 provided that if in any case a new claimant establishes his title to any stock or dividends re-transferred or paid to a former claimant, and is unable to obtain transfer or payment thereof from the former claimant, the Court of Chancery shall, on application by petition by the new claimant, verified as the Court requires, order the National Debt Commissioners to transfer to him any such sum in stock, and to pay to him such sum in money or dividends as the Court thinks just.

Sec. 63 enables the treasury to empower the Bank of England or Ireland to investigate the circumstances of any stock or dividends remaining unclaimed, with a view to ascertain the owners thereof, and allow them such compensation for their trouble and expenses as to the Treasury seems just.

In 1870 all enactments relating to the National Debt were consolidated, but Part VIII. of the Consolidation Act re-enacts the above provisions.

Now as to any Lawrence, Chase and Townley annuities.

The first list was published in 1823. It states expressly that it includes

"All funds and securities transferred . . . on or before the year 1820.

Therefore, it must have included any Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund, because it is beyond dispute that if any such fund had been in existence, it had certainly accumulated before 1820.

This list will be found in the Record of Transfers, published by order of the Directors of the Bank of England, A. D., 1823 (Title, No. 1392, G. 8 British Museum, 139 L., location).

It is entitled :

"The Names and Descriptions of the Proprietors of Unclaimed Dividends in Bank Stocks and all Government Funds and Securities transferred at the Bank of England, which became due on or before the year 1820, and remained unpaid the 31st December, 1822, including all stocks upon which dividends have been unclaimed for ten years together, which have been transferred and paid to the Commissioners for the reduction of the National debt, pursuant to Act 56, Geo. III., Chap. 60, with the date when the first dividends respectively became payable, and number of dividends due.

There is no dividend or stock in the list which belongs to any Lawrence and Townley to whom you can trace, directly or indirectly.

The only Lawrence and Townley in it are these :

Geo. S. Townley, of Walbrook, London, 1805.

Henry Townley, of Ramsgate, Kent Co., 1815, 3% Consol Annuities, p. 3 ; afterwards paid in full.

Chas. Townley, of Hadstock, Essex, 5% Annuities.

Wm. Townley, London, hostler, one dividend in Imperial Annuities, p. 353.

Robert Townley, of Crawford Street, London, 1829, 4% Navy Annuities.

"LAWRENCES."

William Lawrence, of Garlic Hill, a gentleman, 1st dividend unclaimed became due, 1810, 25 Div.

John Lawrence, of Demerara, due 1824, 25 Div.

John Lawrence, of Norfolk, Va., U. S. A., due 1817, 25 Div.

Randall Lawrence, of Wanstead, Essex, a farmer, Jan. 28th, 1828.

Robert Lawrence, of Birchin Lane, gentleman, 1827.

Susanna Lawrence, of South, in Lincolnshire, a spinster, 1761, 63 due.

Thomas Lawrence, of Birchin Lane, gent., 1827.

No mention is made of the name of Chase.

As you had no interest in any of these people, it was of course useless

to attempt to gain any further details as to them, especially under the stringent rules of the **Chancery Office**.

The official publication of this list settled definitely in my mind that there never had been by your Mary Townley, or any one for her, deposited in the **Bank of England**, \$500,000,000, or any other sum, which had been invested in **EAST INDIA BONDS** or any other **BONDS**, which bonds had been transferred to the National Debt Commissioners.

It was said that the estate of Dorothy Townley Howard and that of her mother, was administrated upon by the Government, and that the same was now held and rented by the **Government**, and that the plate and money was deposited in **The Bank of England**, drawing interest, etc.

An examination of the records proves this to be untrue in every particular.

If there was any such fund at all, clearly it was not in the transferred Annuities. There could be no dispute about that, and there was no need of pursuing that branch of investigation any further.

Not being there, the next query was, Where else could it possibly be?

This seemed an insoluble conundrum. It then occurred to me that inasmuch as the estate included land as well as money, and probably that for want of heirs both had been taken by the Crown upon escheat.

Determined to follow up every chance, I made long search, and at last was fortunate enough to find a complete record of escheats, which soon dispelled all hopes in that direction. I found the record in a book, the title of which is,

“INQUISITIONEM POST-MORTEM SIVE ESCHEATORUM.”

FOL. I AND 4, LETTERS H TO T AND A TO C.

It contains a list of all lands, estates and funds which for want of heirs escheated to the Crown.

It begins:

“Edward I., A. D. 1274, and is brought down to Nov. 29th, 1826.”

It shows that there never was an escheat of any Townley or Lawrence estate, so that prop was gone also. There is no mention of Chase.

The next list is in 1849, and there is only one Townley in it, so I proceeded to trace it.

This property was left by a great miser, Rev. William Townley, who died at Orpington in 1847.

This property escheated to the Crown for want of heirs or next of kin.

But it was claimed by a shoemaker named John Potter, of Manchester, England, about 1853, who substantiated his claim as such next of

kin, and recovered the property from the Crown, amounting to about £73,000.

I also made diligent search at the *Report Office*, but could find no decree from the years 1820 to 1830. Nor could I find any affidavits filed in such a suit against the *Bank of England*, in any of those years—1814—15—16—17—and was equally unsuccessful and failed to find any record of UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS OF MONEY ON DEPOSIT that could in any way be identified with my clients or their ancestors.

The next search was at the *Wills Registry Office, Somerset House*, for any wills or letters of ADMINISTRATION from the time of 1 AND 2 EDWARD II., A. D. 1274 AND 1307.

I could find no will of Jonathan Lawrence, who, it was stated, came to England, and finally dying in possession of Townley Hall. I have made careful search in the years 1814, 1815, 1816 and 1817. I have also made search for any will of Dorothy Townley Howard in 1743, but could find no record of any such. Nor could I find a will of Richard Townley, which it was stated was recorded at Doctors Commons, October 10th, 1735. Nor that of his wife, who it was said died in 1740, leaving her vast estate in land, jewels, plate and money in the Bank of England, by will to her two daughters, Mary Townley and Dorothy Howard.

Col. Chas. Townley, late of Townley Hall, Lancashire, who died Nov. 4th, 1876, at Townley Hall.

The readers will perhaps remember that on the 10th of February, 1877, an article appeared in the different newspapers as follows, to wit: "That Col. Chas. Townley had died on the 4th of November, 1876, at Townley Hall, Lancashire, England, and left large estates and the sum of £800,000 to his heirs in America." I have the will, and two codicils dated August 10th, 1871, and July 2d, 1873, and July 12th, 1875, of Col. Chas. Townley, late of Townley Hall, died 4th of November, 1876, at Townley Hall; said will was proved in London on the 18th of November, 1876, by his son-in-law, Lord Noreys, and Lord Henry James Stonor; the executors.

The personal estate being sworn under £160,000, the testator bequeaths to Mr. Stonor, £100, to his secretary, Mathew Houghton, £200, for each year's service; but not to exceed in the whole £2,000; to Mademoiselle Briand, the friend of his daughter, an annuity of £50; and there are annuities to his housekeeper, the lady's maid of his late wife, and his herdsmen; and legacies to the servants who have been five years in his service at his death. The whole remainder of his personality, and such parts of his real estate as he can dispose of by will, he leaves to his three daughters, Lady Norreys, Lady Alexander Gordon Lennox, and Lady O'Hagan.

EXTRACTS OF SIR CHAS. TOWNLEY'S WILL.

I have obtained a copy of the last will and testament of Sir Charles Townley (which is now at my office), who died in London, 1774. This is the gentleman who kept up the correspondence with the family of Col. Richard Townley, who came to America in 1682, A. D., and settled at Elizabethtown, N. J., and upon which so much has been predicted.

He leaves all his property in Thames Street, in the parish of St. Dunston, in the east, or elsewhere in the City of London, to Ralph Begland, Esq., Norroy King of Arms, William Geering, Gentleman of Doctors Common, and Thomas Johnson, Citizen of London, in trust for his wife Lady Townley, and on her death the estates to be sold, and the money to be divided amongst his daughter and his two sons William and John, and such other children living at his death, except his eldest son Charles. To his eldest son Charles, he leaves all his property at Long Whatton, or elsewhere in the County of Leicester, and on his death to his eldest son; or in case of death of said eldest son, then to the second, etc., in priority of birth. Should he die without issue, the property reverts to second son, William Townley, and on his death to his eldest son, etc. Should he die without issue, the property then reverts to the third son, John Townley.

There is positively no mention of any person in America in the said will. And would further state that there is no person in America mentioned in the will of Sir Chas. Townley, who died on the 4th day of Nov., 1876. This ended all claims, unless, indeed, it proved to be the fact that the supposed fund had been received by the **Accountant General in Chancery** in trust to the credit of some cause or matter therein depending, and was still held as a TRUST.

This was the only hope left, and that state of facts could only have occurred in case the **Crown Solicitor** had taken out letters of administration upon the estate of a deceased intestate, Lawrence, Chase, or Townley, and paid the money of the estate into the **Bank of England**, where, after lying unclaimed, it had been transferred to the credit of the **Accountant General in Chancery**, to be by him held in trust to attend the orders of the Court, and that thereafter there were some proceedings in **Chancery** regarding it, pursuant to 10 and 11 Vic., Chap. 96, an official copy of which I have.

I have already said that, as shown in **Somerset House**, neither the **Crown Solicitor**, or anybody else, had taken out letters of administration on a deceased intestate Lawrence, Chase or Townley.

Therefore I went to the **Chancery Office**, and applied to the proper department of the **Accountant General**, and was informed that there

was no Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund held then in their trust or otherwise.

I subsequently went to the **Record Office**, in FETTER LANE, and for several days searched the records there.

I had this object in view : I was not entirely satisfied with the denial of the **Chancery Office**, and I wanted to get at other sources of information.

It struck me that when the **Accountant General** received money or paid it out, a receipt must have been given for it, and these receipts should be on file and would show every transaction. It proved that I was correct in this supposition, and the receipts were filed in the **Record Office**.

I found the original certificates of the **Accountant General** from 1726 to 1799, packed away in 210 bundles in the **Record Office**, unnumbered and without index.

I spent nearly one day in having one of these bundles exhumed. It was for the year 1799.

I selected that year because if any fund had accrued, it had accrued prior to that date, but as usual the search was fruitless.

There was no receipt in the bundle for any Lawrence, Chase or Townley money of any sort.

I intended to search the remaining bundles, but was told by the **CHIEF CLERK** that it might take months to get them out and examine them, and that it was unnecessary to proceed further in that office, because there was a complete **INDEX** in the **OFFICE** of the **Accountant General**, which could be consulted. Accordingly, I again went to that office and asked to see the **Index**.

The request was peremptorily refused.

I then asked the clerk to examine it himself and state if there was any receipts for any Lawrence, Chase or Townley money.

He did so, and said there was not.

As I found that nothing could be done toward getting to examine the books myself, I set about ascertaining their contents by another method.

It was but reasonable to suppose that some time or other, some **OFFICER** or other had caused an examination and report to be made of the money in the **CHANCERY FUNDS**.

Pursuing that idea, I discovered that such examinations and reports had been frequently made.

I procured them all, and have them here.

The first was made upon the 5th of April, 1819, at which date the **House of Commons** had ordered "A return of the total amount of the effects of **SUITORS** in the **High Court of Chancery**, in the years from 1756 to 1818 inclusive.

This return did not give names and amounts specifically, but if the Lawrence, Chase and Townley fund had been swelling for more than a century by accretions of interest, as was claimed, it must have amounted to several millions at an early date.

And yet the return shows that in 1756 the total amount on hand in CHANCERY was only £2,864,975, 16s., 1d., and down to 1806 the total amount had only reached £21,922,754, 12s., 8d. When it is considered that these amounts included all the money belonging to Chancery funds of every description, all funds of wards, suitors, fees, trusts, etc., etc., it will be at once apparent that no Lawrence, Chase or Townley money was amongst it, unless to a very inconsiderable amount. Again: The **House of Commons**, February 10th, 1829, ordered another similar return to be made up to 1828.

The total amount then on hand was £39,216,326, os., 1d.

Then came another more searching order, made by the **House of Commons** February 9th, 1830, ordering a return which should show explicitly the whole amount then on hand.

By this time (1830) the Lawrence, Chase and Townley fund must have amounted to at least three hundred millions, which is an amount less than any estimate yet placed upon it.

But that return shows that at that date the grand total from all the above sources then on hand was:

In cash, £1,496,337, 4s., 2d.

Securities, £37,719,988, 15s., 11d.

Making a total of less than forty millions.

This destroyed even the probabilities of such a fund having been in existence; but still I have not got at the books to see in whose names the funds stood.

If I could have inspected these it would at once have settled the question as to whether any part of the money was derived from or belonging to the Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund. So I again applied to the *Accountant's Office* for permission to make a personal inspection of the books, but was refused. I succeeded, however, in getting official copies of all the returns made to the **House of Commons**, and submit them to you.

They are very instructive.

In 1841 the **House of Commons** appointed a **SELECT COMMITTEE** to report upon the proposal to erect new buildings for the **Courts of Law and Equity**.

This committee had before it the **Lord High Chancellor**, several of the **JUDGES** of the **HIGHER COURTS** of **ENGLAND**, and many of the most eminent lawyers in London, who delivered their opinions under oath.

In 1842 the report of the **COMMITTEE** was printed.

It appears from that report that in 1841 the total amount of stock and cash then standing in the name of the Accountant-General was:

Stock, £39,192,210, 7s., 1d.

Cash, £1,759,629, 2s., 9d.

Among other witnesses before the Committee was the distinguished LORD LANGDALE, who, in discussing whether the funds then on hand could be used towards erecting the proposed buildings, gave a full history of all the funds.

I make the following extract from his testimony:

“It seems an amazing thing to say that there are not less than £41,000,000 or £42,000,000 of stock standing in the name of the **Accountant-General**, but of that sum there are about £39,000,000 standing in the name of the **SUITORS** of the **COURTS**, liable at any time to be asked for by the persons who have a right to their respective portions, as soon as the questions affecting them are decided, and the time for payment arrived.

I suppose nobody will be found to propose touching any portion of that large part of the whole fund standing in the name of the **Accountant-General**.

Another part of that fund consists of some accumulations made from what is called the **SUITORS' FEE FUND**, amounting, according to the last return which I have seen, to between £66,000 and £67,000, but which has no doubt been considerably increased by subsequent investments.

That part of the fund arises from the investments of fees received from the suitors; and it is declared by **Parliament** to be a guarantee for any deficiencies which may happen in the receipt of fees for the payment of certain compensation, salaries and expenses; nobody, therefore, will propose to touch that part of the general fund.

There remains, however, about two millions and a half 3 per cent. stock, which is commonly called the **SUITORS' FUND**, and which consists of two distinct parts; one part of it is that which has arisen from the investments of suitors' cash in the **Bank of England**, and amounts to about £1,574,000. The other part of it consists of investments and accumulations made from the surplus interest arising from those investments of cash, and amounts to about £937,000.

The two together amount to two millions and a half, and a little more. Now, the cash standing on the books as due to the **SUITORS** of the **Court of Chancery**, according to the last return which I had seen, amounted to £1,445,529.

The amount or balance of cash standing to the **SUITORS' CREDIT** in the **Bank of England** at this same time, viz.: in Oct., 1840, was £145,642. . . .

The stock purchased with the £1,300,000 cash, amounts to about £1,574,000 3 per cents.; and this, for the sake of distinction, may be called the CASH FUND, as arising from the investment of suitors' cash.

It is a security for the payment of so much of the cash as shall be required.

Whether the security is sufficient for payment of the whole which may possibly be required, is a question to be considered with reference to the prices at which 3 per cent. must be sold, to produce £1,300,000 cash.

"It stands thus: the dividends of CASH FUND amount to about £47,000 a year; the dividends of the SURPLUS INTEREST FUND amount to about £28,000 a year; together, they may be said to produce £75,000 a year, and the charges, as appears by the RETURN now shown to me, amounted, in the year 1840, to about £52,000.

Of this sum, the salaries of the Lord Chancellor and Masters amount to £35,000.

There are various other expenses, some certain and some uncertain, which raise the charge upon the income of £75,000 a year, to the sum I have mentioned, about £52,000. The surplus, therefore, is the annual sum of £23,000.

This explicit statement further established the fact that there was no such fund, in amount at least, as claimed.

After getting this, I found another source of information equally definite and explicit.

I found it an **Act of Parliament**, which was passed in 1853, called "The SUITORS' FURTHER RELIEF Act." Under this Act the Lord Chancellor was to cause an investigation to be made as to all the accounts whatsoever then standing in the name of the Accountant-General, to the CREDIT of any cause or matter in CHANCERY.

If the accrued dividends had not been dealt with for fifteen years or upwards, he might order them to be carried into a new account to be opened, and called "The SUITORS' UNCLAIMED DIVIDEND ACCOUNT," and the surplus cash accumulating from this account might be carried to the credit of "The Suitors' Fee Fund Account."

In 1854 the first investigation was made under this Act. It then appeared that the total amount of SUITOR'S STOCK then in COURT was \$46,000,000.

In 1855 a list of these accounts was published, but no names or amounts were given.

In 1860 and 1866 similar lists were published, but there were no names or amounts given in them, so that I was unable to say definitely whether or not they included the Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund. I

could only say that, judging from the sum total, it was not large enough to indicate any such fund.

Subsequently I found in the **British Museum** a work which did give the names and dates. It is "The Unclaimed Dividend Book of England," containing the names and descriptions of upward of 20,000 persons entitled to various sums of money, being the whole of the unclaimed dividends and stock in the "PUBLIC FUNDS," which have been, by the terms of the "Bank Charter," transferred to the COMMISSIONERS for the Reduction of the NATIONAL DEBT, as unclaimed for ten years and upward.

Of course I examined this with the utmost care, but, as usual, I found nothing in it to the credit of any Lawrence, Chase or Townley.

Next in point of time was a list, which was the most satisfactory of all. This was an official list published in 1847.

It gives the names of the SUITORS and the title of the causes wherein they are engaged.

It covered every point of inquiry, as will be seen by reference to the heading of the list, which is as follows:

"A list of the titles of causes, matters and accounts in the books of the *Chancery Pay Office*, to the credit of which funds were standing on the 1st September, 1875, which had not been dealt with during the fifteen years immediately preceding that date, prepared pursuant to 'Rule 91 of the CHANCERY FUNDS consolidated Rules, 1874.'"

It was in reference to this list that the rule was established, restricting information, which I have mentioned heretofore.

Although ostensibly confined to causes not dealt with for the preceding fifteen years, in reality it includes all causes and matters up to that date.

It covers sixty-two columns and embraces over three thousand names; and if the Lawrence, Chase or Townley fund was a reality and not a myth, it would certainly appear there. It could not be omitted.

But you will see that there is no suit whatever relating to any administrator of any Lawrence, Chase or Townley estate, or Lawrence, Chase or Townley trust, although, by inspection, it will further be seen that the list deals with just this class of cases.

I have also called upon Messrs. Bompas, Bischoff & Dodgson, of 4 Great Winchester Street, who, I was informed, examined the matter very fully, and therefore wished to obtain their views about the case; and they have kindly furnished a written statement, to wit. In reference to the matter of LAWRENCE and TOWNLEY, or TOWNLEY and LAWRENCE, we have made careful and diligent searches at the **Wills Registry Office**, at the **Record Office**, at the **Master of the Rolls Office**, and at the

Bank of England and Report Office; but in none of these have we come across the slightest clue to the matters in question. We could find no will of Jonathan Lawrence (a) proved in London, in 1816, nor in 1813, '14, '15, '17.

We searched, in addition, for any will of Dorothy Townley Howard, in 1743, but could find no record of any such. At the **Record Office** we could find no mention at all in the years 1826, '7, '8, '9, '30, of any suit of Lawrences against the **Bank of England**, nor in the **Report Office** could we find any decree in any of those years, nor in the **Record and Writ Clerk's Office**, or at the **Master of the Rolls Office**, could we find any affidavits filed in such a suit, in any of these years.

At the **Bank of England** we were equally unsuccessful, and failed to find any record of unclaimed dividends, or money on deposit, that could in any way be identified with TOWNLEY and LAWRENCE, or LAWRENCE and TOWNLEY CLAIM, and we feel bound, therefore, to say that there is absolutely nothing in the claim at all.

Having been informed that MESSRS. EWBANK and PARTINGTON, of No. 3 SOUTH SQUARE, GRAY'S INN, had examined the case, and who were reported to have given a very encouraging account of the case, I called on the gentlemen, and frankly stated the object of my visit, and they informed me that they positively never reported in favor of the case; on the contrary, they expressed their opinion adversely to any claim. The following is their statement, which I have in WRITING, to wit:

We have had frequent enquiries from AMERICA as to the estate of MARY TOWNLEY, sometimes called LADY MARY TOWNLEY, and have consequently made an examination, and do not find that there is, or ever has been, any estate of LADY MARY TOWNLEY, or MARY TOWNLEY, to be distributed.

The TOWNLEY (b) CASE, which was quite distinct from MARY TOWNLEY, was distributed many years since, under a decree of the COURT OF CHANCERY here, to persons who established their right as next of kin of the deceased.

The SUPPOSED marriage of MARY TOWNLEY to a JOHN or JOSEPH LAWRENCE, who went to AMERICA, is mixing the TOWNLEY CASE with

(a). This is a flat contradiction of the statement on page 10, in which it is stated that Jonathan Lawrence went to England in 1814, and succeeded Charles Townley in the Townley estate, and finally dying in possession of Townley Hall, in 1816, leaving a will by which the estate descended to his succeeding generation in America.

(b). The case referred to, is that of the miser, Reverend Wm. Townley, who died at Orpington, England, 1847, leaving £73,000, which was recovered in 1853, by his next of kin, a Mr. John Potter; a poor shoemaker of Manchester.

another case—the LAWRENCE (a) CASE. A great many claimants appear to claim the property of JOHN LAWRENCE, and several suits were instituted to administer the estate; the claim of parties related to the deceased on the mother's side was allowed by the Court of Chancery, and the money paid over to them accordingly.

There is no estate of either TOWNLEY or LAWRENCE now remaining unclaimed.

It is said that MARY TOWNLEY went to AMERICA, in 1716; it does not appear what property it was supposed that she was entitled to, or from whence derived; our own belief is that the supposed claim has been originated in the States, by parties who are desirous of obtaining a few dollars from unsuspecting persons, by calling a meeting of all parties who claim through a LAWRENCE, CHASE, or TOWNLEY, when they are requested to subscribe towards a fund to make an investigation, and recover the FUND which it is supposed still remains unclaimed. I have known a great many cases of this description.

(Signed)

C. J. PARTINGTON,

Of EWBANK & PARTINGTON,

Solicitors.

I then called at the BANKING HOUSE of the well-known BARING BROTHERS, at No. 8 Bishopgate Street, London, who received me very courteously; and when I made known the nature of my visit—at the same time exhibiting a copy of Mr. G. W. Chase's letter, in which he makes the positive statement that this firm has examined and reported favorably on the Chase and Townley case, they denied this assertion most emphatically, and assert positively that they have never, either directly or indirectly, had anything to do with the case; they informed me, however, that they remember having had similar enquiries addressed to them on various occasions, of which they have usually taken no notice, but in the few instances where they may have replied; they simply informed the applicant of their inability to comply with their request, as the nature of the business did not suit them.

At the American Consulate, I learned that several applications had been received from AMERICA regarding the LAWRENCE, CHASE and TOWNLEY CLAIM, and finally it had been referred to the SOLICITORS of the CONSULATE, with instructions to probe it to the bottom, sparing neither time nor expense, in order that the completest information might be given in reply. The SOLICITORS had made the search as directed, and

(a). Refers to the case of John Lawrence, late of Norfolk, Virginia, who died in 1814.

had reported that positively there was no such fund in existence to be paid, even if any heirs could prove a claim to receive it.

A prominent **ENGLISH LAWYER**, to whom I am under many obligations for professional courtesy extended to me, had examined the claim thoroughly, and at his instance, the **SOLICITOR** of the **Bank of England** has made a personal examination of the books of the **Bank**, and had stated to him "professionally" that there was not now, and never had been such a fund in the **Bank**. I then, in company with him, called on **MR. S. O. GAY**, **Chief Accountant of the Bank of England**, and he then informed me that the **Bank Books** had been thoroughly examined in respect to the **LAWRENCE, CHASE** and **TOWNLEY** claim, and that no stock can be traced in any of the funds in the name of **MARY TOWNLEY, CHASE** or **LAWRENCE**, and that there is no unclaimed stock in that name at the present time, and he also gave me a written statement to that effect. All these parties were of the highest integrity and professional standing, with no motive whatever to mislead, but on the contrary every desire to aid me.

THE **STEWARD** for all the **TOWNLEY ESTATE** is **GEORGE STORY, Esq.**, whose office is at **BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE**, to whom I wrote for an explanation of Colonel James F. Jacques' letter, mentioned in the forepart of this book, and I received the following answer :

TOWNLEY ESTATE,
OFFICE, BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE,
ENGLAND.

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 25th, and posted in New York on December 27th, 1881. I note the copy of Colonel James F. Jacques' letter of October 8th, 1879. I can only say that gentleman is entirely misleading your clients. His letter is a misstatement from beginning to end.

None of the estates he names are without owners or ever have been. I have only to refer you to *Burke's Peerage* or *Whittaker's History of Whalley*. There is no money in the hands of the Government that ever I heard of. **TAKE MY ADVICE** and spend no more money over such an **ABSURD** claim. I saw Colonel J. F. Jacques several times and he never would tell me what he wanted.

In reviewing the evidence which the various claimants produced, and which they expected would suffice to substantiate a claim if the estate was found unclaimed, is of such a frivolous nature that I can not forbear making some observations and to state that I am astonished to find so many intelligent people among those who have permitted themselves to be duped, for so many years, by designing lawyers and other interested

parties. I find, upon close investigation, that the letters written by Mr. F. Kniveton (see page 21) were for a purpose, and that purpose was to influence innocent, unwary persons to purchase Jasiel Lawrence's worthless bonds, which were held up to the public to be a "great chance," but which in reality was only a defrauding scheme, which had been agitated for over fifty years, thus making it a very easy matter to entrap their victims. You will observe that Jasiel Lawrence states, in his circular (see page 14), "*that the Court of Chancery, ordered by the House of Commons, Feb. 23, 1865, that the Townley and Lawrence estate remained yet unclaimed, and as yet subject to a claimant;*" that on the books is marked: *heirs gone to America*. These assertions, which, by the way, are entirely false, is, in fact, too absurd and ridiculous to think about. In the letter of Norman J. Lawrence (see page 17), Jan. 4th, 1856, he states that he found that the hotel keeper at Liverpool had been a jurymen in the Court of Chancery for seven years. Now, any person of ordinary intelligence knows that there ARE NO jurymen in the Court of Chancery.

The reader will observe that one branch of the Lawrence family asserts positively that Mary Townley married JOHN Lawrence, whilst another branch of the same family is equally positive that she married JOSEPH Lawrence (see pages 9 and 26). One word regarding the alleged confession of Mary Stevens (see page 39), in which she figures in the character of Mary Townley, like a good fairy in a Christmas pantomime, is so very absurd, in every feature, as to move the author to pity those people of ordinary intelligence who allowed their credulity to be imposed upon by such an utterly absurd fiction as the alleged confession. I have also had search made for the firm of Huntley & Richardson, of Liverpool, and from information before me I fully believe that there never was such a firm.

With regard to the published decree, on page 16, to apply to R. J. Lawton, Princess Street, Manchester, England, who, when shown a copy of the same, expressed profound ignorance of the whole matter. He declared that he positively knew nothing about the advertisement, and had never authorized any one to use his name in connection therewith; and, after a thorough search of this city, no such person as C. W. Lawton, Station G, could be found.

Within the past few days I have been authentically informed that there is a certain claim agent from America, now in London, who has been there for the past two or three years at the expense of a number of persons possessing Lawrence and Townley bonds. He reports that he has been remarkably successful in collecting evidence, etc., and has repeatedly called upon said bondholders for an additional assessment; and the strangest part of the proceedings is, that he invariably obtains it, too.

I think it is little short of imposition and false pretense, to take the money of these credulous people to go on with such a vain and utterly hopeless pursuit, and the public, in justice to themselves, ought to know it.

I have just been handed a postal-card, addressed to the descendants of Jabez Keep and Experience Lawrence, the writer of which states that he has learned much concerning the descendants of Mary Townley, and *thinks* that Experience Lawrence was one of them, which, however, is entirely incorrect. Mary, who died at twelve years of age, certainly could not have left many descendants. Notwithstanding this established fact, the writer calls upon the descendants of Experience Lawrence to subscribe five hundred dollars to enable him to find some prop whereon to base the claimants' glowing hopes of future wealth. My report embodies facts which are a matter of public record, and which were final long before this date, and which never could be changed by any discoveries since, or by any other date; and until these facts are obliterated from history, the well-known story of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, his supposed wife, is simply absurd.

I cannot believe that the author of the printed card is aware of the fact of Mary Townley's early death, and that the Townley estate has never been unclaimed, and that it is now, and always has been, held by the rightful heirs. Nor can I believe that, if he is aware of it, he would suppress the information, and still ask the claimants to subscribe the five hundred dollars; and on the other hand, if he is not aware of it, he must submit to the criticism which such want of knowledge invites.

It may not be amiss to call attention to the record taken from the Bible of Libbeus Lawrence on pages 20 and 21.

William T. Lawrence's *father*. That between the birth of William Townley Lawrence's alleged oldest brother, Libbeus, Jr., and William Townley Lawrence is a period of forty-two years, and between Libbeus, the first, and Julia Ann, the last child, is a gap of fifty-two years.

Now, if Sylvia Ford, whom William Townley Lawrence claims as his mother (*on supposition*), was only eighteen years of age when married, she would have been nearly sixty-two years old when LORD WILLIAM was born, and about seventy-one when the last child, Julia Ann, was born. This goes to show very plainly how ridiculous this evidence is, and proves, upon the very face of it, that it would be of no value in a court of law.

This case was, no doubt, taken in good faith by many of my predecessors, but they, as well as the parties recently engaged on it, either had no energy or push to bring it to an issue, or, for other reasons best known to themselves, deemed it prudent not to disclose to the various

claimants the true facts of the case, and are, without a shadow of a doubt, as much to blame as those who first took it in hand. If this matter stood only as a difference of opinion between lawyers, I should not refer to it, but it does not, happily for all concerned. It has been decided in the most authoritative form, presumably, forever.

It settles the fact that all such claim to the TOWNLEY ESTATE is simply out of the question. This ends all hopes, and should end all inquiry.

Money spent hereafter in the prosecution of claims to the TOWNLEY ESTATE, or to endeavor to make discoveries whereon to attempt to establish any CLAIM, will be recklessly and willfully squandered, and the knowledge of this fact should hereafter silence all solicitations by honorable men and reputable lawyers.

I am frequently asked, "How did the story originate?"

This matter being agitated so many years ago, no doubt had its effect on some of the members of the family, who probably mentioned the matter in their children's presence; and it is the most natural thing in the world that the LAWRENCE and CHASE descendants should carry down with them, from generation to generation, the story of the vast wealth which the family was SUPPOSED to be entitled to in England. These recitals lose nothing by repetition, but gain strength with increasing years, until they became finally reported in the family as a fact, that the ancestor *was* entitled to a large estate when he came to this country, and that they were rightfully entitled to the same; whereas, in truth, the family ancestor LEFT NO SUCH an estate behind him, nor inherited any AFTER HE LEFT England; but the estate spoken of in the old family tradition was that which belonged to the TOWNLEY FAMILY OF ENGLAND, who still rightfully hold and enjoy the same.

CHAPTER VII.

THE LAWRENCE GENEALOGY.

INCLUDING OTHER GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION APPERTAINING TO THE FAMILY.

The claim of the Lawrences to a proved pedigree for 700 years is made in "*Holgate's American Genealogies*," also in the "*Historical Genealogy of the Lawrences*," by Thomas Lawrence, printed in 1858, and in other publications. I assert that, instead of the Lawrences of New York having "*a proved pedigree of more than 700 years*," they have no pedigree beyond the first settler here.

I cannot allow for a moment that a pedigree thus publicly put forth is sacred from investigation. The claim is simply this—that John, William and Thomas Lawrence were "*cousins*" of Henry Lawrence, the President of Cromwell's Council, a member of a family settled at St. Ives, county Hants, England. A pedigree is of value only so far as it is supported by evidence.

No one has yet given any authentic pedigree of the Lawrences of Ash-ton Hall.

Henry Lawrence, President of Cromwell's Council, "*may*" have been related to that family, but there is no *proof* of it on record.

No one knows the name of the father of *John, William and Thomas Lawrence, who came to New York in 1635*. How then can the family historian say that they were cousins of Henry Lawrence?

I desire to call attention to the fact that all the statements about the ancestry of the Lawrences are unsupported by a single fact, so far as I can learn from all the printed accounts. Not a citation is made from a parish record, will, or herald's visitation. If the family have any proofs, they should now be produced. It is assumed that *John, William and Thomas Lawrence, who came to New York in 1635, were cousins of Henry Lawrence, the President of Cromwell's Council*.

Leaving for the present the question of Henry Lawrence's pedigree, let us see if there be any proof that John, William and Thomas were at all related to him. We know from Drake's *Founders of New England* that in 1635 there embarked in the *Planter*, for New England, John Lawrence, aged 17; William Lawrence, aged 12; Mary Lawrence, aged 9, in company with John Tuttell, a mercer, and Joan Tuttell and four little Tuttells. Savage, under the name Tuttell, shows that John T. was, doubtless, stepfather to these three Lawrences.

These passengers, with others, had a certificate from the minister at St. Alban's, Hertfordshire, and it is a fair supposition that they came from that parish or vicinity.

The next step, in Holgate's *American Genealogy*, is to assume that John and William were the patentees at Flushing, L. I., in 1645, when one of them was aged 27 and the other 22 years. Holgate adds that Thomas Lawrence, of Newtown, L. I., was a brother to John and William, and that he died in 1703. From *A Historical Genealogy of the Lawrence Family*, by Thomas Lawrence (New York, 1858), p. 135, I learn that William Lawrence was licensed March 4th, 1664, to marry Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Smith. It further seems clear that William died in 1680, leaving seven young children by her, and a son William by a previous wife. John Lawrence, the emigrant, it is said, had three sons, who all died childless, and three daughters, through whom there are descendants. In the *Herald and Genealogist* (London, 1867), Vol. 4, p. 465, is a tabular pedigree of the Philadelphia family of Lawrences, said to spring from a Thomas Lawrence, born at Great St. Albans in 1666, emigrated to New England, died in 1739. It is a very strange pedigree and apparently needs much correction.

Lawrence Lawrence, son of Thomas, was born in 1700, and his daughter's will was proved in 1831; his granddaughter was born in 1776, and died in 1857. In the *Heraldic Journal* (Boston, 1868), vol. 4, pp. 35-38, will be found some notes about the English families of the name. There were numerous unconnected families, and the genealogy of the name has been marked by more than the usual number of mistakes. The main questions which concern your New York Lawrences are these three:

1. Were John, William and Thomas, relatives?
2. Were they born at St. Albans?
3. Who were their ancestors?

Until these questions are answered by proofs, such as parish records and wills, all repetitions of the well-known history of Henry Lawrence, and the Lawrences of Ashton Hall, are useless and ridiculous. After considerable search in the numerous publications about this family, I must

confess that I have found not the slightest *proof* that William Lawrence was born at St. Albans, or of his father's name.

The pedigree stops with the emigrant.

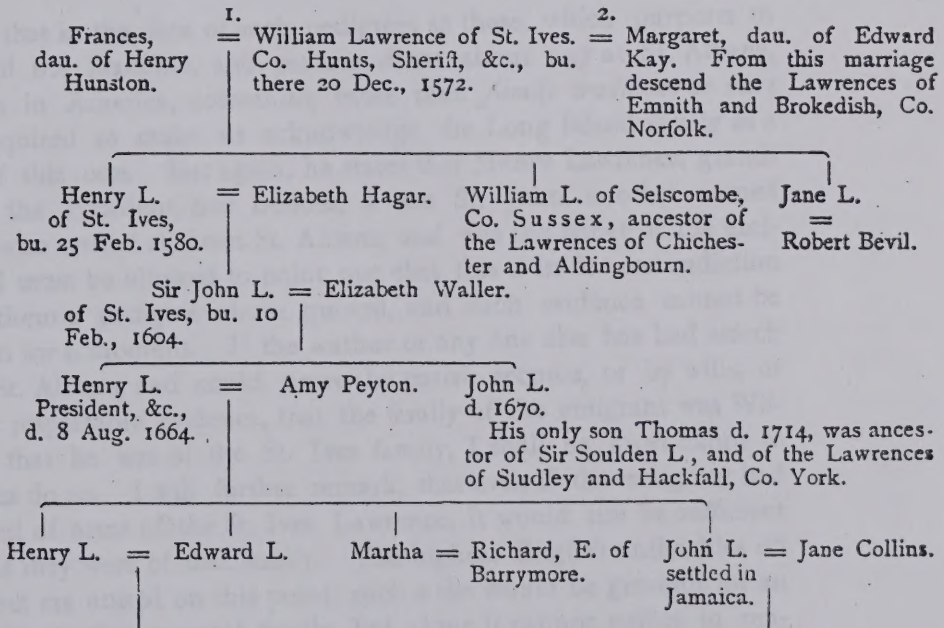
Genealogists well know that *family traditions* are almost worthless.

In this case, there is no proof of any old tradition, as to this connection with President Henry Lawrence. So much for controversy of this particular pedigree, which I repeat is *unsupported by a single fact, so far as I can learn from all printed accounts*. The Lawrences are neither better nor worse off than the rest of their fellow-citizens, whose *ascertained* pedigree stops with the emigrant hither.

Before I quit this topic, however, I will give such facts relative to the Henry Lawrence family as can be substantiated.

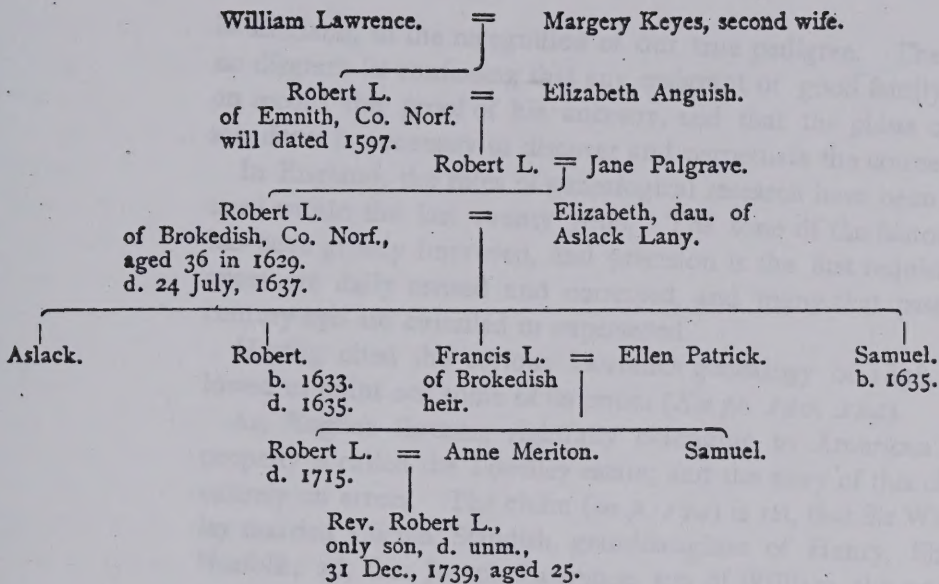
THE LAWRENCE PEDIGREE.

In *Hoare's Willshire* is a pedigree brought down to A. D. 1840, at least. I extract the generations touching the period of the settlement here.



I have also before me a copy of a manuscript pedigree, from Davy's Suffolk Collections in the British Museum, tracing the Lawrences of Emnith as follows: (I give only the male lines.)

This professes to trace the younger line of Lawrences. I give both only as pretending to show at least some of Henry Lawrence's distant relatives; but they are wholly unnecessary to my argument.



I think that in the face of such pedigrees as these, which purports to contain all the branches, and yet are silent about any at St. Albans, much less in America, something more than *family traditions or mere belief* is required to make us acknowledge the Long Island family as a branch of this one. But again, he states that Henry Lawrence, grandfather of the President, had besides, a son Sir John, another named William, who settled at Great St. Albans, and was the father of the emigrants. I must be allowed to point out that this is in flat contradiction to the authentic pedigree above quoted, and such evidence cannot be listened to for a moment. If the author or any one else has had search made at St. Albans, and could prove by parish records, or by wills, or any other respectable evidence, that the family of the emigrant was William, or that he was of the St. Ives family, I shall be most happy to have them do so. I will further remark, that even if the emigrant had used a seal of arms of the St. Ives Lawrence, it would not be sufficient proof that they were of that family. The highest English authorities on this subject are united on this point; such a use would be grounds for an investigation in that especial family, but alone it cannot suffice to render a family pedigree valid. The position of the Long Island family was such that it ought to be possible to trace their English ancestry. A small part of the money which has been spent in printing these fictitious pedigrees, might suffice to establish a true one. I certainly have no wish to depreciate the social position of any of the emigrants to this country, but I speak from experience, when I say that unfounded and injudicious claims to old English families have been the great obstacles

in England, to the recognition of our true pedigree. There is certainly no disgrace in confessing that any emigrant of good family did not have on record the proof of his ancestry, and that the pious care of his descendants is necessary to discover and perpetuate the connection.

In England, the rules of genealogical research have been greatly lightened within the last twenty years. The tone of the historical inquiries has been greatly improved, and precision is the first requisite; old pedigrees are daily revised and corrected, and many that passed muster a century ago are curtailed or superseded.

Having cited the curious Lawrence genealogy of 1858, I may be allowed to point out some of its errors (*See pp. 120, 124*).

An English fortune, rightfully belonging to American heirs. The property is called the Townley estate; and the story of this claim is based entirely on errors. The claim (*see p. 194*) is 1st, that Sir William Townley married Cecilia Standish, granddaughter of Henry, Sixth Duke of Norfolk; 2d, that Joseph Lawrence, son of William, the emigrant, married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Townley (*p. 30*), and she inherited the property.

Now any English peerage will show that, 1st., Cecilia Standish, *who did marry William Townley, was not the sole heiress*, though she was one of the grandchildren of the Duke of Norfolk. 2d. That she has many descendants now living, *and they, of course, inherit any property she may have had*. Their names are recorded in Burke's *Landed Gentry*. But worse remains; there is no proof whatever that Joseph or John Lawrence had any wife, Mary Townley.

The family historian says (*page 30*) that she was the daughter of Sir Richard Townley, and that her sister married Francis, first Earl of Effingham; also that Joseph Lawrence was intimate with his brother-in-law, who commanded a frigate stationed here, and that his grandson, Effingham Lawrence, was named in honor of this lord. But the English peerage says that Francis, first Earl of Effingham, was a distinguished military officer; and had two wives, Diana O' Farrell, and Anne Bristow.

It is also confessed that tradition is the only authority for this marriage and the name and parentage of Joseph's wife.

The solution seems easy. William Lawrence, the emigrant, as we have seen, left a widow, who married, first, Sir Philip Carteret, and next, Colonel Richard Townley, of New Jersey. Littell (*Passaic Genealogies, p. 438*) says that this Colonel Townley had sons, Charles and Effingham Townley.

It is not unlikely that he may have had a daughter Mary (*a*) who mar-

(a) The destruction by fire of the church records of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, may account for the record of the birth of Mary, daughter of Richard Townley, not being found there.

ried her step-brother, Joseph Lawrence. At all events, this known marriage of William's widow will account for the name of Effingham in the Lawrence family. As aforesaid, looking only at the positive statement in the book of the *Lawrences' Genealogy*, that Dorothy Townley married Francis Howard, first Earl of Effingham, who died in 1743, I said that the Earl had two wives, but neither named Townley, according to the standard English authorities. The family historian states that Dorothy Townley married Francis Howard, first Earl of Effingham, Governor of Virginia, who died in 1694, and who was father of the above Earl.

Here he goes in defiance of the English peerage. I quote *Collins' Peerage* (Brydge's Edition, Vol. IV, p. 280), which states that this Francis Lord Howard married, first, Philadelphia, daughter of Sir Thomas Pelham, Baronet, and secondly, Susan, daughter of Sir Henry Felton, of Playford, County Suffolk, Baronet, and widow of Thomas Herbert. (a) *Family traditions* may be correct, and the English peerage may be all wrong, but surely I have a right to ask for some respectable proof when they contradict the standard authorities. I ask, therefore, for proof that Francis Howard, fifth Baron Howard of Effingham, married Dorothy, daughter of Richard Townley. I also ask for any proof that Thomas and Mary Townley came to New York, or that *any* Mary Townley married Joseph or John Lawrence, or William Chase, or anybody else, it being an indisputable fact that Mary Townley, daughter of Richard Townley and Margaret Paston, died in 1680, at the age of 12 years. See page 76. *Lawrence Genealogy* (p. 124) states that Cecilia, daughter of Ralph Standish, Esq., and Phillipa Howard, became, before her death, the sole heiress of her grandfather, Henry Howard, sixth Duke of Norfolk.

The said Cecilia Standish, married Sir William Townley. By said marriage the property became vested in the Townley family, and by defect of heirs descended to Mary Townley, who married Joseph Lawrence.

As aforesaid, Cecilia Standish was not the sole heiress of the Duke of

(a) I presume the errors occur in this way. The writer of the "Lawrence Genealogy" says that Dorothy Townley married Francis Howard of Corby, afterwards first Earl of Effingham, who died in 1743, but as the Earl never came to America, the marriage is changed to his father. But the Howards of Corby are a distinct family from the Howards, Barons and Earls of Effingham. The Effingham Howards descend from the second Duke of Norfolk; the Corby branch, a very distinguished one, sprang from the fourth Duke of Norfolk, three generations later. Burke says, though not confirmed by other authorities, that a Dorothy Townley did marry a Francis Howard of Corby. Would it be out of place to suggest that the author of the "Lawrence Genealogy" was unaware of the difference in the two branches, and supposed, wrongly, that Howard of Corby was Lord Effingham, for surely it is more likely that it is an error, than that all the English peerages are wrong as to the marriage of Lord Howard of Effingham?

Norfolk, and she has many living descendants to inherit any property she may have left. My authorities are the *English Peerages*, and Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

I will copy from Burke's, also other English authorities' account of the Townleys, condensing it slightly, which will show the manner in which the property descended from oldest son to oldest son, and is not divided among all equally.

(1.) Charles Townley was slain at Marston Moor. He married Mary Trappes, by whom he had four sons and three daughters. His eldest son and heir,

(2.) Richard Townley, married Margaret Paston and had seven sons and six daughters, to wit,

(1.) Clemant, } both died very young.
(2.) Richard, }

(3d.) Charles, sole heir to his father.

(4th.) John, died in infancy.

(5th.) John, a monk.

(6th.) Richard, born 1664.

(7th.) Thomas, born in 1666.

(8th.) Mary, born 1668, died 1680, and was buried as aforesaid in the Catholic Cemetery at Forde, near Little Crosby, which is located about ten miles north-east of Liverpool, in Lancaster County, where the Townleys have been buried for generations past; they being a noted Catholic family, and where they have a magnificent mausoleum.

Unscrupulous parties have represented that Mary Townley married Joseph or John Lawrence, and William Chase, whereas she married neither, but died as above stated; also, that the Townley property was unclaimed, whereas it never was unclaimed, but simply on the death of William, passed to his brother John, who had only one son who predeceased his father (see page 79), and on the death of John the property then reverted to the daughters of Sir Charles, who are now rightfully owning and enjoying the same.

(9th.) Anna, 1670.

(10th.) Dorothy, who married Francis Howard, of Corby, in Cumberland.

(11th.) Frances married Cuthbert Kennet, of Coxhow.

(12th.) } Margaret.

(13th.) } Cicely, both nuns, and died at Fessar, St. Victoir, Paris. Of these, Dorothy married as aforesaid.

Richard Townley died, January, 1706-7. His oldest surviving son,

Charles (3) Townley, married Ursula Fermor, and had five sons, of whom

Richard (4) Townley married Mary, daughter of Lord Widdrington, and had two sons; of these,

William (5) Townley (b. 1714, d. 1741) married Cecilia, daughter and heir of Ralph Standish, by his wife Lady Phillipa Howard, and had three sons, who all died without issue eventually.

The Townley property then passed to William's (5) brother John (5). See page 79. The Standish property went to William's grandson, in the female line.

So far Burke writes clearly, and I presume we must all accept his account of the Townley family, as thus published by the *representatives* of the family in England. Let me call attention to the Lawrences' genealogy (p. 124), which says they have proof of various things, but *excepting the marriage of Joseph Lawrence and Mary Townley*.

He attempts to strengthen his case by giving Lord Effingham a Townley wife, unknown to English genealogists, apparently to account for the name of Effingham Lawrence, grandson of Joseph. The plain truth seems to be, that this name of Effingham Lawrence has caused all the trouble. It is a fact allowed by both of us, that the widow of William Lawrence married Richard Townley, of New Jersey, who had a son Effingham Townley, and it is but reasonable to suppose that Richard Lawrence named a son after his step-uncle. To an unprejudiced observer, all this story seems to be a jumble of names and persons arising out of a mistaken *family tradition*. The explanation I have offered is only reasonable, I think.

As to this Effingham Lawrence, who is said to have been one of the Lords of the Admiralty, may I inquire when he held that office? I cannot find the name in Hady's *Book of Dignities*, which professes to give a complete list. It is, I believe, unusual for such an official to engage in business pursuits, as this Effingham Lawrence seems to have done.

In 1869, the third or fourth genealogy appeared of the Lawrences of New England, descended from John Lawrence, of Watertown and Groton; the emigrant was traced to Thomas Lawrence, of Rumburgh, in Suffolk, who died in 1471, who was to be affiliated to the famous family at Ashton, in Lancashire.

Here, however, critics say there is a fatal flaw in the pedigree, and as none of John's known ancestry used a coat of arms, he and his numerous descendants have not a right to any. There are errors in nearly all the Lawrence's pedigrees I have examined, and no doubt there are venal and unscrupulous persons who, for a reward, will draw out pedigrees and coats of arms, without care for their truthfulness or accuracy.

But no honest and honorable man will proclaim a pedigree or arms as his, which he knows or believes to be not his own, but some one else's.

In regard to the Massachusetts family of the Lawrences, I shall stand by what I have written as to that pedigree, and the personal character of

any members of that family has nothing to do with the connection of their published pedigree.

It would be, perhaps, unfair to confine this article to contradictions solely, and as so much has been written about the Lawrences of England lately, I will try to give some idea of what is known. I refer in these notes chiefly to the Visitations printed in Dr. Howard's *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* and *The Herald and Genealogist*, both magazines published in London.

1. It is clear that the name of Lawrence, being simply a Christian name, is one borne by many families in no way related.

2. It is certain that there was a Sir Oliver Lawrence who married Ann, sister of William Wriothesley, Lord Chancellor and Earl of Southampton. This Sir Oliver died New Year's Day, 1559. For his descendants, see *Mis. Gen. et Her.*, pp. 201, 203.

3. There was a family at Withington and Sherdington, County Gloucester, traced to William Lawrence, who died in 1558. This is recorded in the Visitations (*Misc. G. et H.*, pp. 205-6-7, 233-7).

4. A family at St. Ives, County of Huntingdon, beginning with John Lawrence, buried at Ramsey, 1537, nephew of the last Abbot of Ramsey. An account of this family is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1815. To this family belonged Henry Lawrence, President of Cromwell's Council; a junior branch was of Enmith, County Norfolk.

5. A family at Hertingfordbury, County Herts (see "*Miss. H. et G.*," p. 212; "*Herald and Genealogist*," IV., 533), from 1500-1650, about.

6. Sir John Lawrence, of Iver, County Bucks, baronet, died 1632, grandson of Thomas Lawrence, of Chelmarsh, Shropshire.

7. The family at Rumburgh and Wisset, County Suffolk, traced by Mr. Somerby from Thomas Lawrence (will dated 1471) to John Lawrence, who came to New England about 1635. This pedigree is printed in Bond's *Watertown*, p. 1080-1, and elsewhere. There are numerous other pedigrees to be found, but these seem the principal ones.

Now, it will be noticed that none of these pedigrees extend very far back. Yet it seems to be certain that there was a Sir Robert Lawrence, of Ashton, County Lancashire, whose grandson, Sir James Lawrence, married Eleanor, daughter of Lionel, Lord Welles. Her brother married Cecilia, daughter of King Edward IV., so that this family of Lawrence may fairly be ranked among the higher gentry. But this Sir James had an only son (or grandson) John, killed at Flodden, A. D., 1513, and the representation of the family passed to Lancelot Lawrence, of Yeland Hall. (See *Her. and Gen.*, iv., 531-2.) The writer of the article in *H. and G.*, here quoted, does not pretend to trace the Yeland Hall branch, and a Visitation of Lancashire, 1567 (*Mis. Gen. et Her.*,

p. 199) differs somewhat in regard to the junior branches. It may be assumed, however, that Lancelot Lawrence was the heir male. It is likewise thought that our Nos. 2 and 5 were connected; that is, that Sir Oliver was a brother of Richard of Hertingfordbury. The Visitations of Dorset, 1565, 1623, say that Sir Oliver was a seventh son, his next oldest brother being Henry L., ancestor of the Lawrences of Tisbury, County Wilts. Here we get on doubtful ground, for the same Visitation says that Sir Oliver's father was Nicholas, brother of Sir James, which affiliation must be wrong.

Stopping here for a moment, observing only that there is a break between the Ashton Hall stock and any others of the name, we will look at another attempt to connect a family with the main stem. This was the work of Isaac Lawrence, of London, great-grandson of William Lawrence, of Withington (our No. 3, *ante*). He was born in 1615, and was living in 1682. His wife was Grisel, daughter of Sir John Lawrence, bart., of Iver. A competent critic (quoted in *H. and G.*, iv., 530-5) says this Isaac *composed* a pedigree which was afterwards printed in Faulkner's *History of Chelsea*. One form of it is in the official Visitation of Gloucester, 1682 (*Mis. Gen. et Her.*, p. 206), where William (of Withington) is called son of John, the latter being nephew of Sir John, of Ashton. It may well be concluded that this was all a fabrication, and that the known pedigree must stop with William, who died in 1559, and whose overseer was Richard Lawrence, of Foxcote, a gentleman whose son got a grant of arms in 1570.

But it seems Isaac Lawrence, in inventing his own pedigree, made other errors. He states that Sir James Lawrence, of Ashton, not only had a brother Robert, who left issue, but another brother, *Sir Nicholas Lawrence, of Agercroft*, who married an heiress of — Moore, and had seven sons, the youngest being our friend Sir Oliver Lawrence.

Leave out the names Agercroft and Moore, and this agrees with the Herald's Visitation of Somerset in 1623, viz.: in stating that Sir James had brothers Robert and Nicholas, the difference being that Isaac traced to Robert, and Sir Oliver's descendants to Nicholas.

We may well believe these two affiliations to be the work of the heralds, and conclude that the Lawrences must for the present be considered distinct families, and none of them representing the old and noted Lancashire family.

³
For a verification of the foregoing statements, refer to the *Geneological and Biographical Record*, New York, 1872, by W. H. Whitmore, and others.

In closing my report I desire to make the following observations:

While my labor has not been productive of pecuniary profit, yet I think the result has been beneficial.

It may now be definitely taken as a fixed fact, that the so-called Lawrence, Chase, or Townley fund, does not exist, except in the fictions of traditions; and the hopes of the expectant recipients.

It was worth, however, much more than the personal outlay incurred by the individual members of this Association, to have settled once for all, in an authoritative manner, such a perplexing and delusive anticipation.

As your agent, having fulfilled my obligations to the best of my ability, this report is respectfully submitted by

Yours respectfully,

JAMES USHER,

New York City.

WITH GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
FAMILIES OF TOWNLEY, CHASE, LAWRENCE,
STEWENS, SEVERANCE, AND OTHER
FAMILIES OF AMERICA

FRANK ALDEN HILL

THE MYSTERY SOLVED.

FACTS RELATING TO THE

"LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY," "CHASE-TOWNLEY," MARRIAGE
AND ESTATE QUESTION.



WITH GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE
FAMILIES OF TOWNLEY, CHASE, LAWRENCE,
STEPHENS, STEVENS, AND OTHER
FAMILIES OF AMERICA.

BY

FRANK ALDEN HILL.

RAND AVERY COMPANY, BOSTON,
MADE THIS BOOK.
1888.

CHAPTER II.

REFERS TO THE GENEALOGIES, TRADITIONS, MEETINGS, AND ASSOCIATIONS OF THE LAWRENCE, CHASE, AND OTHER FAMILIES.

THE following is the genealogy of one of the Lawrence families, compiled by the descendants of John, William, and Thomas Lawrence of Long Island:

" The first ancestor of this family known was Sir Robert Laurens of Ashton Hall, in Lancashire, England, who flourished in 1191, and received the knighthood from King Richard, also a coat of arms, which is appended to the will of William Lawrence, 1680, and Richard Lawrence, 1711, in the Surrogate's office, New York City. Sir John Lawrence, the ninth in lineal descent from the above Sir Robert Laurens, flourished in 1491. He killed a gentleman usher of King Henry VII., was outlawed, and died in exile in France, issueless, when Ashton Hall and his other estates passed by royal decree to his relations, Lords Monteagle and Girard. Three brothers, John, William and Thomas Lawrence, descended from Sir John Lawrence, emigrated to America. John Lawrence, the eldest, was born in Great St. Albans, Hertfordshire, England, in 1618, came over in the ship Planter, N. Travis, Master, and landed in Plymouth, Mass., in 1635, from whence he went to Long Island, afterwards resided in New York, where he held many public positions, and died in 1699, leaving descendants. His will, written in 1698, is on file in the Surrogate's office, New York. William Lawrence, the second brother of John, was born in 1623; in 1635 he came over with John, in the ship Planter, and became the proprietor of Lawrence's Neck (so-called) which stretches into Long Island Sound, between Flushing Bay and Whitestone, about nine hundred acres, a part of which is the present site of St. Paul's College. William Lawrence held many civil and military offices, and died in 1680 leaving numerous descendants. His son Joseph, by his second wife, Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Richard Smith, the patentee of Smithtown, married Mary Townley in 1690. After the death of William Lawrence in 1680, his wife, Elizabeth Smith, married the Hon. Philip Carteret, Governor of New

Jersey, in April, 1681, and removed to Elizabethtown with her family. The town was named after Elizabeth Smith.

Philip Carteret died in December, 1682, his widow then returning to Long Island. Thomas Lawrence, the youngest of the three brothers, came to this country after the brothers John and William. In 1655 Thomas and his brothers obtained possession of a tract of land in Newtown, Long Island. Thomas afterwards purchased the whole of Hell-Gate Neck, from Hell-Gate Cove to Bowery Bay. He died in Newtown, in July, 1703, leaving five sons, Thomas, William, John, Daniel and Jonathan, of whom John alone permanently remained at Newtown. A large number of descendants sprung from these brothers, John, Thomas and William. The list is to be found in Thompson's History of Long Island and Holgate's American Genealogy, published by George P. Putnam in 1851. Henry Lawrence was a descendant from Sir John Lawrence, who flourished in 1491, and, therefore, a connection of John, William and Thomas. He was an adherent of Oliver Cromwell, and his picture is seen as President, in Clarendon's history of the Rebellion. His gravestone, not yet effaced, is in the Chapel of St. Margaret, Alias Thele, in Hertfordshire. The coat of arms can be traced on it, viz : -a cross, raguly, gules. The crest, a fish's tail or demi dolphin."

In connection with the above document it is stated, that , Joseph Lawrence (who married Mary Townley, 1690) had as children Elizabeth (married John Bowne, 1714), and Abigail, who married Major Alexander Forbes of the British Army. The descendants of another of the Lawrence families have been given the following history:

The family of Lawrence is traced plausibly to a Robert Lawrence, who settled in Lancashire, and ,was knighted in 1191 for valorous deeds at the siege of Acre, yet more positively to a sir Robert Lawrence of Ashton Hall, whose marriage to Anna Trofford in 1298 is a matter of public record; and the records of Ashton Hall for a period of four hundred years bring us to a son of the house named John, who married Mary Townley, of Townley Hall. The descendants; of this pair are the heirs officially called for so frequently by the English authorities.

Ashton Hall is situated six miles west of Manchester; is entitled to one member of Parliament, and is remarkable, among other features, for a large church of the time of Henry the Fifth; and the Lawrence family is thus prominent in English history. But the enormous possessions of the Lawrence-Townley family are derived from the wife. Mary Townley was the oldest daughter of Sir Richard Townley and Mary Widdrington, of Widdrington, Northumberland County, of notoriety from his connection with the hero of Chevy Chase, of whom was sung :

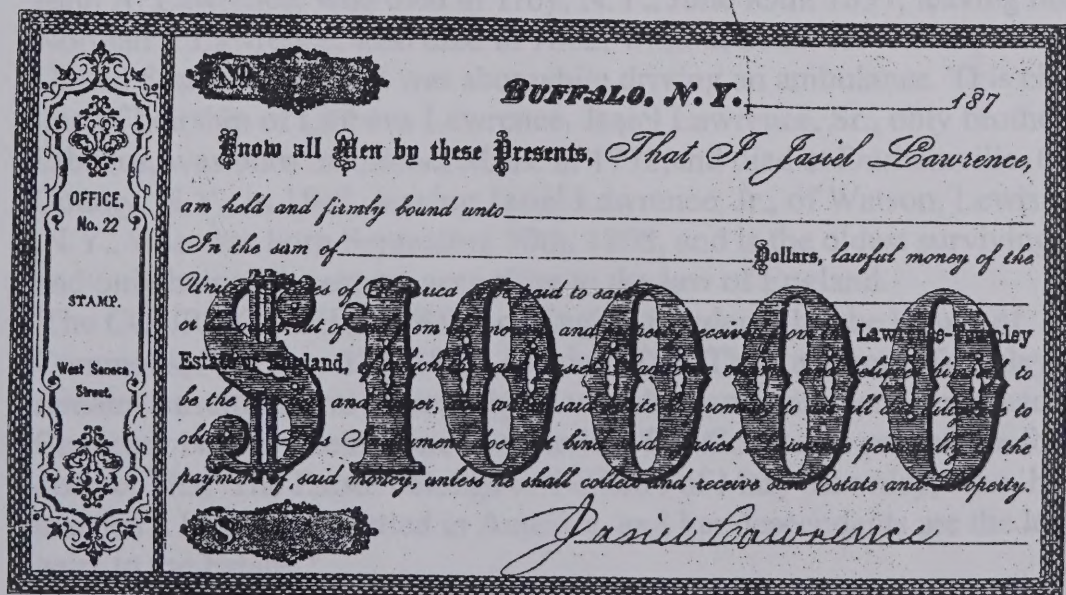
" My heart is woe for Widdrington,
As one in doleful dumps ;
For when his legs were smitten off,
He fought upon his stumps."

The Widdrington Estate included many mining properties in Durham County near to New-Castle-upon-Tyne. These, of very great value, were conveyed by will to his daughters, and by marriage. settlement secured to her separate right and were accordingly willed to her two daughters, Mary and Dorothy. The former married, against her father's consent, John Lawrence, who was a Protestant, and socially inferior, doubtless, as he elected to follow the seas. The couple eloped and were married in the English Kirk at the Hague in Holland. As Mary Townley . Lawrence was about to become a mother, she made application to be received at Townley Hall but Sir Richard refused to receive her, and she returned to the ship Highflyer which had brought her from Holland, and of which her husband was the second officer; and on board this ship were born twin sons. The ship put into the port upon the Solway which was nearest to Corby Castle, where her sister Dorothy, who had married Lord Effingham, resided ; and there, at the church of the parish Witherel, to which Corby Castle belonged, the twins were baptized by the names of John and Jonathan. The former together with a sister Mary, subsequently born at the Hague, emigrated with their parents to America in the autumn of 1714, and the family were virtually lost to their English relatives, being in constructive disgrace from the powerful effect of the anger of Sir Richard Townley, of Townley Hall, whose high social position and great wealth added force to his displeasure throughout the circle of his kindred. These emigrants, John and Mary Lawrence, with their son and daughter, were with difficulty followed in their wanderings after their arrival in America, for the reason, chiefly, that the father and son followed the seas and the females would have only such temporary abodes on shore as might suit the coasting expeditions of father and son.

The son, however, eventually found a home at the mature age of 43, in a town not far from Boston, and his marriage is recorded to have taken place November 13, 1738. He became conspicuous as an officer commissioned by Governor Shirley, in the French and Indian war, and was rewarded, with others, by his Majesty King George Third, by a grant of five hundred acres of land in Nova Scotia. Upon this grant he settled and there died in 1769. The family history has been traced from him with sufficient authenticity, it is supposed, to justify the institution of legal proceedings, and these have quite recently been commenced. In 1743, or five years after the marriage of Jonathan Lawrence, there culminated several large estates into one- the one now called the Lawrence Townley Estate.

Another of the Lawrence families claims descent from John Lawrence who settled in Watertown, Mass. They have the same general story, viz.:- "That John Lawrence married Mary Townley, ran away to America, etc. " For a full genealogy of this family, see The Genealogy of John Lawrence of Watetown, Mass. (by John Lawrence), printed by

Whipple, Boston, 1857. Next in prominence for their efforts is the Chase family, of which the late Chief Justice, Salmon P. Chase, was a member. And as early as 1847 (besides previous efforts in 1830), a lengthy notice appeared in a Baltimore paper, stating that by a decree of the High Court of Chancery, three-fourths of the Townley Estate belonged to William, Thomas, and Aquilla Chase, or descendants, and the remaining one-fourth to another brother, or descendants, whose Christian name the Court was unable to ascertain. This statement was entirely without foundation, as no such decree ever existed. Next we mention the Townley family, a family well known in the Middle and Western States, as well as in the Canadas; and one that has enrolled among its members the names of many prominent citizens. This family have been very enthusiastic in claiming that they were related to Mary Townley of Lancashire, and have spared no effort to prove their claim to be a true one. But without avail. Effingham Townley, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey (deceased), was so confident that the estate in question would fall to him, that he made provision for its distribution in his will to his children. They have family traditions concerning a large Townley Estate in England. besides a correspondence that passed between Richard Townley of New Jersey and Charles Townley, Clarenceux (descendant of Nicholas Townley, deceased, formerly of Littleton House near London). This correspondence was in 1765-6-7-8, and, although the marriage at that time had taken place, it referred in no way to a Mary Townley who left her home and came to America, nor to any estate for the heirs of such a person. Next we mention the Williams family of New Hampshire, who are positive that Sarah Lawrence, who married their ancestor, was the daughter of Mary Townley, who married Joseph Lawrence.



FACSIMILE. REDUCED ONE-THIRD OF ORIGINAL SIZE.

On the back of the bond of Jasiel Lawrence appears the following:

"GENEALOGY, AND DECREE OF CHANCERY"

" It is now certain that Jasiel Lawrence, of Watson, Lewis County, New York, is the SOLE HEIR to the Lawrence Townley Estate. The Lawrence family in different parts of the country have expended large sums of money in investigating their claims to this estate, but in vain, all of them having failed to prove their heirship to this immense fortune, as the pure blood of MARY TOWNLEY, through whom the estate is derived, did not flow in their veins. This Mary Townley was married in England to John Lawrence, the ancestor of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This marriage of John Lawrence and Mary Townley is found in the English Records. They emigrated to this country in 1716. The said John Lawrence, and Mary Townley his wife, had only one son, named Jonathan, who was the great-grandfather of Jasiel Lawrence, the present heir-at-law to this estate. This Jonathan Lawrence married Hannah Robbins, of Walpole, Massachusetts, in 1738, by whom he had two sons, Jonathan, Jr., and William. Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., was the eldest son, next heir to the estate, according to the laws of England. He was born in Walpole, Mass., in 1739. He married Rachael Smith, of Easton, Mass., in 1762. This fact is proved by the town records of Easton, and by other official documents in the possession of the present Jasiel Lawrence. This Jonathan Lawrence, Jr., and Rachael his wife, had two sons, Libbeus and Jasiel. Libbeus was born in Nova Scotia, in 1765, and died in Lansingburgh, N.Y., in 1818, leaving one son, John A. Lawrence, who died in Troy, N.Y., June 10th, 1857, leaving one son, Norman J. Lawrence, who died in 1862, without heirs. He was a soldier in the United States Army, and was shot while driving an ambulance. This closed the line of heirship of Libbeus Lawrence. Jasiel Lawrence, Sr., only brother of Libbeus, was born in Easton, Mass. in 1772, and died at Durhamville, Oneida County, N.Y., in 1842, leaving Jasiel Lawrence, Jr., of Watson, Lewis County, N.Y., who was born September 30th, 1808, and is the oldest surviving son, and only heir to the estate, according to the law of England.

'The COURT OF CHANCERY of England, ordered by the House of Commons, February 23d, 1865, decided: That The Lawrence-Townley Estate remains unsettled, and as yet subject to a claimant, and there is marked on the Chancery books, -Heirs gone to America. The Court also passed the following decree: That' The Estate belongs to the heirs of Mary Townley, who, having married a Lawrence, settled in America, and her descendants are the legal heirs to the Estate. "

[NOTE. -The above statement is false in every particular.]

There is still another family who claim Mary Townley as an ancestor, and who say that she married a Herbert. A few of the times and places of meetings of the above families are given below. There was a large gathering of the Townleys of America, at Elizabeth, New Jersey, September 21, 1845, at which time a commission was sent to England. In 1852-3, meetings were held, funds collected, and Columbus Smith, of West Saulsbury, Vermont, and J. B. Price, of Philadelphia, were sent to England as counsel. The report of Columbus Smith, I believe to be truthful, and, as far as his examination proceeded, considering that he was laboring in an entirely wrong direction, I think he accomplished all that the circumstances permitted.

A meeting of the Lawrences was held at the next of kin office of Mr. Hayes, 327 Broadway, and at the Merchants' Hotel, New York, in July, 1857. A large meeting of the heirs of John Lawrence, of Watertown, Mass., was held in Boston, in April, 1855. At the American Hotel, Toronto, Canada West, a large gathering of the claimants was held in April, 1867. A gathering of the possible heirs took place at Middletown, N. Y., in October, 1877. The above are a few of the many meetings that have been held at different times by the supposed heirs to the Townley estate.

I quote the following from a pamphlet printed with the assent of Mr. Jasiel T. Lawrence: - "Some fifty years ago, in a suit brought by the Lawrences of Boston and vicinity, in the English Court of Chancery, the Court denied the suit as it was found, in the language of the decree, case No. 24, 366: 'That the said claimants are not the lawful and lineal descendants of John Lawrence and Mary his wife; and that they are not in the line of descent.' The Hon. Abbott Lawrence and Daniel Webster, the latter in the interest of the Chase family, in its early connection with said estate, have had to do with the inquiries instituted." And from the same source I quote as follows:

"The Opinions of Eminent Lawyers:

UTICA, N.Y., Aug. 8, 1868.

"At the request of Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, of Lewis County, and others I have examined the general features of the claim made by him and others to property in England, known as the Townley Estate. In my opinion there is sufficient evidence that they are, and can probably establish that they are entitled to said estate, to warrant the employment of a competent person to investigate the matter, and thus ascertain whether their claim can be established or not by competent proof.

"

(Signed,)
FRANCIS
KERNAN

H. Stark, Verona,
R. W. Phillips, Utica, & others, *Witnesses*

ROCHESTER

July 5,
1870.

" Dear Sir: -In respect to the claim of Mr. Jasiel Lawrence, I have expressed the opinion that he is an heir to the Townley Estate, and the facts justify his expenditure of the necessary money to investigate and enforce his claim.

" " (Signed,) JOHN H. MARTINDALE,

Late Attorney General of the State of New York and Military Governor of D. C.
Witness- J. W. Parker, East Pike, Wyoming. County, New York."

Mr. P. Keam, of Keaw &, Porter, Attorneys-at-Law, Cincinnati, under date of May 3, 1875, says: - "I have spent a great deal of time and patience in examining the title and claims of the several claimants to the Townley-Lawrence Estate in England. There is no doubt in my mind but that the estate, worth several millions of dollars, is there awaiting the lawful claimants. From numerous letters received from parties who have made a study of this question, and who were supposed to be authorities, we condense as follows :- "The last lineal descendant of Townley Hall was Charles Townley, who died in 1805. Since his death the Hall has been leased three times by the government to collateral heirs of the Townley family. A late occupant was Col. Charles Townley, who died suddenly on Saturday morning, November 11, 1876. The deceased was born in 1803.

The estate known as the Townley Estate consists of four estates that have lapsed into one, namely -the Howard Estate, descended from Francis Howard (Lord Effingham), on which Corby Castle is located; the Standish Estate; the Widdrington Estate and the Townley Estate, near Burnley, in Lancashire. Corby Castle and the Howard property are said to rent for four hundred thousand dollars per annum. Townley Hall and the Townley Estate are said to rent for a like sum per annum. In the wills of the late occupants of Townley Hall no transfer is made of any part of the Townley Estate.' The Townley Estate passed into Chancery in the early part of the present century, and the first advertisement concerning it appeared in 1827.

The following copies of circulars are of interest in this connection :

CAUTION.

WHEREAS, printed circulars have been sent out purporting to give the proceedings of a meeting of the LAWRENCE COMMITTEE, held at the Merchants' Hotel, in Courtlandt st., New York, July 20th, 1857, in which my name is used as being Chairman, and assigning the proceedings of said Committee. I was not Chairman of any Committee when Thomas Mc-Dowell and Lewis P. Hunt were chosen as Agents to proceed to England, nor did I sign any proceedings of any Committee held there.

"Beware of the first fraud."

JAMES S.
LAWRENCE.
Freehold, N.
J.

JULY 31st, 1857.

At a meeting of the Lawrence heirs, held at the next of kin office, 327 Broadway, New-York, this day, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

" That the heirs present recognize MR. HENRY HAYS as the only legitimate means of reaching the object at which they are aiming."

JA
S.
LA

JULY 24th, 1857.

LAWRENCE-
TOWNLEY
ASSOCIATION.
DAYTON, O., June 1,
1873.

As a person interested in the Lawrence-Townley estate, your attention is called to the fact that there has been a decision of the English Court of Chancery, by which three fourths of the sum of \$380,000,000 has been awarded to the American heirs of Mary Townley. This vast property comes from Sir R. Townley, living about 1600, at Townley Hall, Lancashire, England. Mary Townley was heir to this immense estate. \$260,000,000 has

been awarded to her heirs in America, and as one of her heirs you are interested in the investigations of the following questions :

1. Who are the legal heirs of Mary Townley-Lawrence ?
2. What is necessary to do to establish said title or claim?
3. Can you establish your claim, or on what proof do you base your claim ?

We wish to impress upon you that no one but YOU can furnish your family history, consequently if you do not do it it will never be done. This is all that is wanting now. Will you do it? No other person has as much interest in your case as yourself. By furnishing us all the evidence you can obtain, as soon as possible, We may be able to supply any wanting links in your chain from other sources. But we can not do this without your help. Please forward to us as soon as possible a full family history of your ancestry as far back as you can give it- names, dates, &c. *not supposed*, but what you can prove -and we will then place them, with others, in the hands of attorneys to arrange. Will you unite with us and give all the aid possible ? and there is no doubt about the successful result. It is a big undertaking, and can only be accomplished by united effort. If you do not desire to push your claim any longer, please notify W. L. Winchell, Corresponding Secretary of Lawrence-Townley Association, Dayton, Ohio, so that there may be no delay waiting for your proof. It may be a fortune to you to attend at once to this matter, but you alone must decide as to what you can or will do.

Respectfully,

W. L. WINCHELL,
J. D. FOX,
J. Q. A. COFFEEN.
Executive Committee.

THE LAWRENCE-TOWNLEY ESTATE.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS FORMED.

A Report of the Delegates to the Meeting, held at Buffalo, N.Y., Thursday, Feb. 3rd, 1876.

PROCEEDINGS.

A meeting of the delegates, representing the interests of nearly all the heirs to the Lawrence-Townley Estate, as also, the interest of the heirs to the Lawrence Estate proper; was held at Buffalo on the 3rd day of February, 1876, for the purpose of taking further action in prosecuting the claims to these vast estates. After organizing the meeting by electing S. S. Brown, of Perrysburg, President, and P. Ream, of Cincinnati, Secretary, the

President stated that the object of meeting was to unite the interests of the several heirs into one common interest, under one body of Directors, so that the claims might be prosecuted more vigorously and harmoniously than had been done heretofore. D. B. Carver, of Albany, made a spirited speech, urging upon the Association the necessity of all members making a speedy compilation of their pedigrees, so that the case might be completed in Record evidence, before commencing action in the English Courts of Chancery. A full history of the organization and progress of the Western Branch of the Lawrence-Townley Association of Cincinnati, was laid before the meeting by Dr. Shepherd, of Glendale, President, and P. Ream, of Cincinnati, the Counsel of the Association. After which the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

1st. Resolved, That there be elected a National Board of Directors, consisting of seven members, five of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; This Board to be clothed with authority from all parties interested in either of the estates, to perform such acts as in their opinion are necessary to raise funds to complete the records and pedigrees of the members, and to defray the expenses of a vigorous prosecution of the case to a final termination. The following gentlemen were elected as members of the National Board of Directors :

Dr. SHEPHERD, Glendale, O.
DAN. LAWRENCE, Reading, O.
S.S.BROWN, Perrysburg, N. Y.
D. W. HAMMOND, Ontario, Canada.
FRED. WELLMAN, Cincinnati, O.
CHARLES TINKER, Geneva, O.
A. C. KINGSBURY, Watkins, N. Y.

2nd. Resolved, That the Board of Directors be empowered to elect delegates to procure Powers of Attorney and Releases from the heirs in both the United States and British Dominions; to draw up Articles of Association for the purpose of forming a Joint Stock Company, with power to issue Bonds, which shall be made in conformity with law, binding on all the heirs, for the purpose of raising funds to defray the necessary expenses in prosecuting the case; said funds to be used under the supervision and direction of the Board of Directors, in connection with their Counsel, and that they act with such Barrister or Barristers as may be retained by said Board, in the final prosecution of the case in England.

3rd. Resolved, That all papers, pedigrees, and Records of every description, and from all resources, shall be passed over to the National Board of Directors, to be used by them for their entire use and benefit, in completing the pedigree of any member who may be a contributor to the general fund, or for such other purpose as said Board may require. The Board may however give such a consideration for any valuable papers, as they shall deem just and equitable.

4th. Resolved, That all parties having an interest in either the Lawrence-Townley Estate, or in the Lawrence Estate, shall be entitled to the benefit arising from the genealogies or

pedigrees already compiled, or that may hereafter be traced out by order of said Board; and that their interest shall be prosecuted without any additional fee further than may be required as a general assessment by the Board of Directors for the purpose of liquidating expenses.

5th. Resolved, That this meeting recommends to the National Board of Directors as Counsel, D. B. Carver, of Albany; George Day, of Troy; Gen. Durbin Ward and Peter Ream, of Cincinnati; and such Barristers in England as may hereafter be decided upon.

6th. Resolved, That said National Board of Directors do meet for the purpose of carrying into effect the above resolutions, at as early a date as possible. The same to convene at a call from Dr. Shepherd, of Glendale, who is to act as President until the regular organization of the Board.

DR. SHEPHERD, Pres., *Pro Tem.*, P. REAM, Sec'y, *Pro Tem.*

The above Association, properly known as "The Western I., Association of the Lawrence-Townley Estate," had for the basis of its action the statement that Richard Towneley, who married Mary, the daughter of Lord Widdrington, had two daughters - Mary, who married John Lawrence, and Dorothy, who married Sir Francis Howard, afterward Lord Effingham; together with the remainder of this story as given on a preceding page. On the strength of this statement, certain members of the Lawrence family residing in Cincinnati and vicinity, who had never devoted themselves to genealogical matters, were persuaded to form the above Association. The statement was entirely false, as I have shown in another part of this volume; and those who expended their time, money, and labor, to form this Association, were sadly imposed upon. The President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the above Association, as well as the late Dr. Coffeen, I knew personally as being men of strict integrity and honesty of purpose. Dr. Shepherd, President of the above Association, has devoted himself for many years to the work of ascertaining the truth, or falsity, of the American traditions; and when he found that it could not be obtained through the medium of the Association in question, he sought my services in 1884, and we have gone to the bottom of the matter, as will be seen in the following chapters.

The statement that Sir Richard Towneley who married Mary Widdrington, had a daughter Dorothy, is false. Richard Towneley, born in 1687 (grandson of Richard Towneley- and Margaret Paston), married, subsequent to 1710, the Hon. Lady Mary, daughter of William, 3rd Lord Baron Widdrington, a copy of whose will (drawn March 26th, 169-!) is in my possession. They had no child named Dorothy; and not being married until after 1710, they could have had no daughter Mary to marry any John or Joseph Lawrence in 1690. nor 1693. The brother-in-law of this Richard Towneley- was William, 4th Lord Baron Widdrington, who married for his first wife *Jane* Tempest. He was heir to the Widdrington estates. Towneley and Widdrington were implicated in the Rebellion of 1715, and were tried for high treason. Towneley was acquitted, although he deserved to be convicted. Widdrington was convicted, but escaped death through the influence of friends in the Royal Court.

He was, however, deprived of his honors, his real and personal estate was sold, and the amount realized, together with the rents and profits thereof, in all about \$500,000, was paid into the receipts of the Royal Exchequer.

This left William Widdrington a poor man, and in 1722 [see Journal of the House of Commons] Parliament granted " to William, late Lord Widdrington, the sum of £12,000 to enable him to live." William Widdrington died at Bath, England, in -1743, having married for his second wife a Mrs. Graham.

Richard Towneley died August 18th, 1735. I have a copy of his will, and there is no mention in it of any daughter Dorothy. His will was drawn February, 1731-2, and probated October 10th, 1735. The only daughter he had was Mary Catharine, who married Thomas Hornyold, of Blackmore Park, County of Worcester, Esq., who died in 1762. She was not of age when her father died. The " Historical Register and Chronological Diary ," for 1729 (vol. 16, p. 34), reports the death of Mary Widdrington as follows: -" July 2d, 1729, Dy'd, the Hon. Mrs. Mary Towneley, " wife of Richard Towneley, of Towneley, Esq ., and sister of the " present Lord Widdrington."

There is not, and never was, any record of any marriage of a John Lawrence to a Mary Towneley, daughter of Richard Towneley and Mary Widdrington his wife. There is no record of the baptism of John and Jonathan Lawrence upon the Church Registers at Wetheral. I have visited Wetheral and Corby Castle, and the Corby estates do not, and never did, belong to the Towneley family. They are at present in the possession of one of the Howard family. Corby Castle is at present rented to Mr. E. Bebrems.

No John Lawrence with a wife Mary Townley, ever came to Massachusetts or Nova Scotia; and the Jonathan Lawrence who in 1738 married Hannah Robbins in Walpole, Mass., was not in any way descended from Richard Towneley and Mary Widdrington. The Lawrence family of England never resided at Ashton Hall, near Manchester. Ashton Hall, about 6 miles from Manchester, is in the village of *Ashton-under-Lyne*, and was the home of the Assheton, or Ashton, family. The home of the Lawrence family was Ashton Hall, about three miles from the city of Lancaster. A portion of the old building is still standing, but the property passed from the hands of the Lawrence family long ago. The last male heir was Sir Robert Lawrence, Knight, whose co-heiress Sibel married Thomas Hesketh, Esq., of Rufford. Ashton Hall passed into the possession of James Earl of Arran, in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

Mr. George W. Chase, of Olathe, Kansas, has for years asserted that he found in England a Decree of the Court of Chancery, issued in relation to a suit brought by Jonathan Lawrence and others, in 1827, to recover the estate of Mary Townley who married John Lawrence. Mr. Chase gives the date of the issuing of this Decree as 1829, and states that he has a copy of it. In a circular issued by Mr. Chase, August 31st, 1875, is the following:

- "The great obstacle in the way was a lack of the date of the decision of the Court of Chancery. Within a short time I have obtained that, and can at any time after we get prepared, lay claim to it. There is but one place in England where it is recorded. " And in the same circular he says - " Above all the case was kept in Chancery for many years, and finally decided in 1829, which leaves us but a short time in which to present and prove our claim. The time is coming when I will publish, in circular form, the decision.

I have personally examined the ' Decrees and Orders of the English Court of Chancery, as well as Chancery Bills and Answers,' from 1640 to 1860, under the names of Lawrence, Chase, and Townley, and I assert that there is no such Decree in existence, and never was. In a letter dated November 30th, 1880, Mr. Chase writes as follows: - ' John Lawrence married Mary Townley in Holland and came to America. I have full proofs with dates. This Mary Townley was daughter of Sir Richard Townley, the last male heir in direct line to inherit " the estate." Having " full proofs with dates " is, to say the least, putting it rather strong. Within the past two years and fully nine years after he had written that he had obtained the date of the decision of the Court of Chancery" - Mr. Chase writes as follows: - ' Mary Townley was married in London, in a church. Her parents were present, so the story of her elopement is not correct." There is a wide margin between his two statements. I have also personally examined the Records of the English Church in the city of Hague in Holland, as well as the records of Nova Scotia, and they contain no entry whatsoever of the marriage of a John or any other Lawrence to a Townley, nor the birth of any children from such parents. In fact, the name of Townley is not to be found in the said records.

James F. Jaquess and George W. Chase have for years deceived the public by spreading broadcast the story above referred to, and asserting it to be the truth. When I turned the direction of my work from the Stephens family to the families of Lawrence and Chase, I found that the said story formed the basis for the greater part of the action that had been and was being taken by the descendants of the Lawrence and Chase families. Step by step I have searched for the facts, and have found that these statements were false to the core.

In 1880 Messrs. Lamphere and Usher of New York City began an investigation of the question herein dealt with. On his return to this country, from England, Mr. Usher issued his report to those for whom he had been working. I have never met Mr. Usher, but an examination of his report (in the light of my present knowledge) convinces me that he has worked not only intelligently but with an honesty of purpose; although he did not succeed in tracing to its true source the tradition that has been handed down for so many years in the Chase and Lawrence families.

CHAPTER IV.

**REFERS TO THE MAIN LINE OF THE TOWNELEY FAMILY, OF
TOWNELEY HALL, NEAR BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND.**

CHAPTER V.

THE ROYLE AND LITTLETON BRANCHES OF THE TOWNLEY FAMILY.

CHAPTER VI.

**ELIZABETH LAWRENCE ALIAS CARTERET ALIAS TOWNLEY, AND HER
SON JOSEPH LAWRENCE, TOGETHER WITH SOME MENTION OF JOHN,
THOMAS, AND WILLIAM LAWRENCE OF LONG ISLAND.**

FROM Liber A of Deeds, p. 4, of Record at Jamaica, Queen's County, Long Island:
Entered at the desire of Mr Richard Smith &c. 30 March, 1681.

These presents Wittnes that whereas there is a purpose of joining in Marriage with Capt. Philip Carteret of New Jersey it is joyntly and fully agreed between him the aforesaid and me Elizabeth Lawrence late wife of Capt. William Lawrence of Flushing deceased -that I the aforesaid Elizabeth doe reserve liberty to give and dispose of all my right of land and meadow or housing within the Neck called Tews Neck unto any of my sons whom I shall see good and that no engagement whatever shall impead this agreement.

ELIZABETH
LAWRENCE.

Wittneth

RICHARD SMITH

SARAH L. SMITH mark

ABIGAIL NICOLLS

Copy of the Will of Elizabeth Townley, of Record in the office of the Secretary of State,
Trenton, New Jersey

" In the name of God, Amen, I Elizabeth Townley, the relict of Collo: Richard Townley of Elizabeth Town in ye County of Essex & Province of New Jersey, D: s'd, do think fit to make this my last will & testament in manner and form following I do give my Soul to

God, hoping for Salvation, thro' ye merits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus X't& my body to ye Earth to be decently buried in hopes of a glorious Resurrection at ye last day & as for my temporal goods, I dispose of them. as followeth Imprimis I give unto my daughter Sarah Shackmaple all the furniture of ye room, in which I now lye, viz't, The Bed Curtains & Cloathes & every thing belonging to it, a chest of Drawers, a Small Table & a glass; with the Chaires, I likewise give. her two other Elbow-Chairs, covered with ye same sort of stuff, wch is in ye Curtains of ye said Bed. Item, I give & bequeath all my estate, Goods & Chattels wtsoever that is mine, or ought to be mine, unto my son Charles Townley, his Heirs & Assignes, excepting half my plate, wch I give to my son Effingham towards ye paymt of debts, & I charge & comand my son Effingham to be just to his brother Charles by granting him forthwith after my death a confirmation under his hand & seal for that land wch he knows his Father designed him; I do hereby constitute, authorize and appoint my dear son Charles to be sole Executor of this my last will & Testament, revoking and making null & void all other wills & Testaments by me heretofore made, either by word or in writing. In Testimony Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this eight day of March in ye Tenth year of ye Reign of Anne over great Brittain, ffrance & Ireland Queen &c Annoq Dom 1711-12.

The mark of
Elizabeth Townley L. S.

Signed, Sealed, published & declared by ye

Testatrix to be her last Will & Testament in ye presence of us:

EDWARD VAUGHAN, DEBORAH LAWRENCE, MARGARET
WILLOCKS.

" Memorandum yt part of ye twelfth & thirteenth line was blotted out before ye signing & sealing of this Instrumt."

The second husband of the above lady was Sir Philip Carteret, of the Isle of Jersey in England, who was first governor of the Province of New Jersey in America. He drew his will Dec. 10, 1682, which was proved the same month. In this will he gives his mother, Madame Rachell Carteret, all his houses, lands, *et cetera*, in the Isle of Jersey, for her use during her life, and at her decease to be divided among his brothers and sisters. He gives to my most dear and loving wife " all his houses, lands, *et cetera*, in New Jersey, unto her and her heirs forever," and makes his dear wife his sole executrix. (See Liber A or 5 of Deeds, p. 17, Trenton, New Jersey.)

The maiden name of Elizabeth-Lawrence-Carteret- Townley was Smith. She was a

daughter of Richard Smith, the patentee of Smithtown, L.I. She married for her first husband Capt. William Lawrence of Flushing, L.I., and had by him, among other children, Joseph, who, it has been said, married a Mary Townley. There is no evidence to show that such a marriage ever took place.

In Liber H 2 of Deeds, p. 3-18, in Trenton, New Jersey, appears a deed signed by Joseph Lawrence, who deeds to Joseph Bonny of Woodbridge certain lands in East New Jersey. In this deed the grantor describes himself as " Joseph Lawrence of Flushing, in Queen's County in Nassau Island and Province of New York Gent. eldest son of Elizabeth Lawrence alias Carteret alias Townley deceased of Elizabeth Town in the Province of East New Jersey.' This deed was drawn May 3, 1735, and Recorded June 26, 1755 by Affirmation of Daniel Lawrence being of the people called Quakers, , who was one of the witnesses.

From the fact that widow Elizabeth Lawrence became the wife of Sir Philip Carteret in 1681, the year after the decease of her first husband, and that, a short time after the decease in 1682 of her second husband, she married Richard Townley (who did not die until the latter part of 1707), it seems reasonable to suppose that her children *nee* Lawrence, who were still young, lived with her in the home of her third husband, and grew up with the children *nee* Townley of this third marriage. As it was quite natural that Richard Townley should have christened his eldest son Effingham, in remembrance of his friend Lord Howard, Baron of Effingham, in whose suite he came to America, it follows quite as naturally, that, out of regard for Effingham Townley, his Christian name should have been given to the grandson of his half-brother, Joseph Lawrence, and have come down through successive generations of both families.

The descendants of Joseph Lawrence, because Effingham has been used as a Christian name in their family, have looked upon that fact as of much importance in support of their tradition that their ancestor married Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir Richard Towneley of Lancashire, as they have believed that Dorothy Towneley (sister to Mary) married Francis Lord Howard, Baron of Effingham, which was not the case, as is shown below.

The following, from Holgate's American Genealogy,' forms the basis for the numerous traditions prevalent among the descendants of William Lawrence that his son Joseph married a Mary Towneley in 1690: -"Joseph Lawrence of Flushing, Long Island, in 1690, married Mary Townley daughter of Sir Richard Townley, son of Charles Townley who fell at Marston Moor. At the Restoration he was under the necessity of selling a very valuable estate at Nocton, near Leicester, in consequence of losses sustained by Sequestration. His daughter Dorothy, the younger sister of Mary, married Francis Howard of Corby afterward Baron Howard of Effingham, and who on the 8th of December, 1781, was created 1st Earl of Effingham. He died 1743."

In the preceding there is no room for doubt as to which Sir Richard, Mary and Dorothy Towneley, are referred to. In Chapter IV. I have shown that the said Richard Towneley

had no daughter Mary living in 1685, and consequently could have had no daughter Mary in 1690 to have married Joseph Lawrence. And particularly so since his, the said Richard's, wife, died in 1672. Dorothy Towneley referred to in the above extract was the second wife of Francis Howard, Esq., of Corby : -"Captain of a Regiment of Foot and sometime Governor of Carlisle. Born 29 June 1635, died Dec. 17, 1702, buried at Wetherel." -Monumental Inscription.

Dorothy his widow died 13 Dec. 1712. Said Francis Howard was never created Baron of Effingham, nor did he leave any male issue. And yet, on the statement published in Holgate's American Genealogy," hundreds of people have been led to believe that the descendants of the said Joseph Lawrence were also descended from the main line of the Towneley family of Lancashire. Neither John nor Joseph Lawrence ever married Mary Townley who was sister to Dorothy Towneley. Neither John nor Joseph Lawrence ever married Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley and Mary Widdrington. **There is not an iota of evidence to show that the said Joseph Lawrence married a lady whose maiden name was Mary Towneley, either in the latter part of the seventeenth, or in the early part of the eighteenth, century; but there is an abundance of proof to show that there was no Mary Towneley belonging to the main line of the Towneley family at that time whom he could have married.**

John, Thomas, and William Lawrence of Long Island were brothers from St. Albans in Hertfordshire, England. They came to this country in 1635 in the ship Planter, Nicholas Trarice commander; and it has been supposed that the maiden name of their mother may have been Towneley. Such supposition I know to be erroneous, as I have not only a copy of the record of the birth of each of the said brothers, as well as a copy of the record of the birth and marriage of their parents and grandparents, but also the coat-of-arms , of their mother's family.

CHAPTER VII.

REFERS TO LAWRENCE, CHASE, AND OTHER FAMILIES HAVING THE TRADITION THAT ONE OF THEIR ANCESTOIRS MARRIED A LADY TOWNLEY.

[See John Lawrence of Wisset for a complete GEDCOM file on the below family]

I COME now to the families of Experience Lawrence who married Jabez Keep of Westford, Mass., and Tryphena Lawrence who married her cousin Jonas Lawrence of Canaan, Conn.

The descendants of the above have for many years believed that they were from the Towneley family through one Jonathan Lawrence who was son to John Lawrence and Mary Towneley, daughter of Sir Richard Townley, and sister to Dorothy Towneley of Lancashire.

I have already shown that no John, or any other Lawrence, ever married Mary, sister to Dorothy Towneley ; and this fact alone destroys the truthfulness of their family tradition.

But, as I have traced step by step the pedigree of the said Experience and Tryphena Lawrence, it may not be out of place to refer to it in brief in this connection.

Will of Major Eleazer Lawrence. Of Record in Liber 27 of Wills, p. 270, Cambridge, Mass. :

"In the name of God Amen the twenty ninth Day of December and in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and forty nine I Eleazer Lawrence of Littleton in ye County of Middys in New England Gentm Being of Perfect mind and memory but calling to mind the mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed for men once to Die Do make this my Last Will and Testament that is to say first of all I Recomend my soul in to The hands of God that gave it hoping through the merits of Jesus Christ to have free pardon of all my sins and to Inherit Eternal Life and my body I commend to the Earth to be Deceantly Buried at ye Discretion of my Executors hereafter named and as Touching such Worldly estate wherewith God has Bestowed on me I Dispose in Manner and form as follows, Itn. I give and Bequeth to Mary my Dearly Beloved wife allimony and Bonds & nots for money due to me at my Decease and all ye Household Goods waring apparil and Cattle to her & her heirs and assigns forever and also Improvement of the house Barn and Lands That I shall Dye seized off, During her life, she paying my just debts & funeral charges. Itn. I give and bequeath to my five sons vis. to my son Pelag Lawrance, Jonathn Lawrance, David Lawrance, Eleazer Lawrance, and Samuel Lawrance to them and their heirs & assigns the sum of Five shillings in money to each of them with what I have given to each of them by Deeds to be the full of their Portion out of my estate. Itm I give to my Daughters viz to ye heirs of my Daughter Elisabeth Buttrick Decead twenty shillings in money & to my Daughters Mary Fletcher, Sarah Cumings, and Experance Keep, Prudence Parker and to each of them or their heirs the sum of twenty shillings in money with what they have received before is to be the full of their portions out of my estate all which Legases to be paid unto them or their heirs in one year after my Decease by my executors hereafter named hereby I Do constute and appoint my wife abovsd and my son David Lawrance to be my Executors of this my Last will and Testament Disallowing all others aforemade by me. In witness whereof I have set my

hand and seal the Day and year above the words & Bonds & nots for money interlined before signing.

ELAZA LAWRENCE [SEAL]

Signed sealed published and Declared to be WILLIAM LAWRENCE

The last will & Testament of Eleazer Lawrance NATHANIEL

BOYNTON

In the Presence of: JOSEPH BOYNTON

Of Record in the same office: --

"Littleton December ye 19th 1754 To the Honourable Saml Danforth Esqr Judge of Probate for ye County of Middlesex may it Please your honour We the Subscribers being the children of our Honoured Father and Grandfather major Eleazer Lawrence Late of Littleton Deceased We hereby give our consent that ye Will of our said Father and Grand Father should be Proved and a Proved; and Disire your Honour would alow of the same: and whereas there is some small estate Left by our father not Disposed of by will we Disire therefore that our aged mother may be allowed to take administration and that the Improvement of the whole may be settled upon Her During Her life."

PELEG LAWRENCE..... JABEZ KEEP

DAVID LAWRENCE..... EXPERIENCE KEEP.

ELEAZER LAWRENCE..... JOHN CUMINGS

SAMUEL LAWRENCE..... SARAH CUMINGS.

BENJA. DAVIS..... PETER P ARKER

SARAH DAVIS..... PRUDENCE PARKER.

ISAAC RUSSELL.

MARY RUSSELL.

The said Honorable Samuel Danforth January 13, 1755 granted Letters of Administration unto Mary the widow.

The above shows conclusively that Experience Lawrence, who married Jabez Keep, was the daughter of Major Eleazer Lawrence of Littleton, Mass., and *not* the daughter of Jonathan Lawrence, son of John Lawrence and Mary Townley. Major Eleazer Lawrence was born in Groton, Mass., Feb. 28, 1674.

When Littleton was set off from Groton, he became a citizen of Littleton; and his name appears in the records of that town as one of the original landed proprietors. He was a son

of Peleg Lawrence, who was born January 10, 1646-7, in Watertown, Mass., and who married, about 1667, Elizabeth Morse, and settled in Groton, Mass. The grandfather of Major Eleazer was John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass. [1st wife, Elizabeth -; 2d wife, Susannah, daughter of William Batchelder of Charlestown, Mass.] ; removed to Groton, where he died, July 11, 1667.

Major Eleazer Lawrence married Mary, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Scripture of Groton; born Feb'y 7, 1680, by whom he had the following children:

1. Eleazer, date of birth unknown.
2. Elizabeth, born Feb'y 28, 1699
3. Peleg, born June 1, 1701
4. Jonathan, born Oct. 4, 1703
5. David, born Dec. 26, 1705.
6. Mary, date of birth unknown.
7. Sarah, date of birth unknown.
8. Samuel, born May 2, 1714.
9. Experience, born June 22, 1719
10. Prudence, born April 7, 1722.

Of the above, Eleazer married, June 25, 1731, Lucy Tuttle, by whom he had (among other children) Simon, born January 11, 1739, from whom some of the Walker and Adams families descend.

Jonathan married Tryphena Powers (his first wife), by whom he had Tryphena, born Sep. 26, 1735, who married Sep. 3, 1754, her cousin Jonas, son of Isaac Lawrence of Canaan, Conn., and died in West Stockbridge, Mass., Jan. 31, 1795, whose descendants, living in Tioga County, New York, and Bradford County, Penn., have spent a large sum of money in the vain endeavor to prove themselves descended from a Jonathan Lawrence, son of a John Lawrence and Mary Townley. The Jonathan Lawrence who was their ancestor is clearly, shown in the above.

Experience married at Westford, Mass., April 3, 1740, Jabez, son of Samuel and grandson of John Keep of Springfield, Mass. It will thus be seen that Experience Lawrence who married Jabez Keep in 1740, was aunt to Tryphena Lawrence, wife of Jonas, and daughter of Jonathan.

It is to be regretted that a few of the descendants of Experience Lawrence have insisted that the will of their ancestor Major Eleazer Lawrence is a forgery, and that the late Honorable Abbott Lawrence, while Minister of this Republic to the Court of Great Britain, caused certain gravestones to be taken from the graveyard at Groton, and transferred to England, by means of which he secured to himself, through parties in England, a large sum of money. This ridiculously false statement would not find a place here were it not for the fact that a few have influenced many to believe it to be the truth. Any one with the smallest degree of knowledge of genealogy and records will, without

any hesitation, admit the validity and genuineness of the documents above quoted, if they will only take the trouble to examine them in the Probate Office of Cambridge, Mass., where they are of record, and constantly under the custody of officials.

The Rev. John Lawrence of Cambridge, Mass., has compiled a most excellent genealogy of the descendants of John Lawrence of Watertown.

In addition to those mentioned, there are several other branches of the Lawrence family who have had the same Lawrence-Townley tradition. The majority of these can be traced either to John, Thomas, or William Lawrence of Long Island, or to John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass. The Kentucky branch of the Lawrence family, however, trace their pedigree to Levin Lawrence[Leven (?) the signature to his will is Levin] who married Susannah, daughter of John and Honor Dorsey of Maryland. She was born Dec. 12, 1717. Levin Lawrence died between April and September, 1756, and was probably buried in the graveyard upon the north side of the old Lawrence homestead, about twelve miles southwest from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. The house of Levin Lawrence, built in 1741, was still in good preservation when I visited it some five years since. One of the descendants of Levin Lawrence residing in Louisville, Kentucky, has the following coat-of-arms that has been handed down from generation to generation. "Argent, a cross raguly, gules, crest, two laurel branches vert, forming a chaplet," which implies a descent from the Lawrence family of Lancashire, England.

On the maternal side the following is their traditional genealogy:

"According to the traditions of the family three brothers, Edward, Joshua and John Dorsey (or D' Arcy, as they were more frequently called in the early State Records,) emigrated from Ireland and settled in Maryland not long after its colonization, The first appearance of the name was in 1660, when a tract of land called 'The Bush' containing four hundred ' acres, lying near Chesapeake Bay and the mouth of the Severn River was granted to Edward D'Arcy, In 1664 there was granted to Edward, Joshua and John D' Arcy two thousand acres of land lying on the Severn River, not far from where the city of Annapolis now stands, A part of this Tract called 'Hackley in the Hole' remained in possession of John D'Arcy's descendants from 1664 to 1829. John D'Arcy married a lady whose Christian name was Pleasance but whose surname is unknown, She survived her husband and married secondly Thomas Wainwright. John D'Arcy died in 1714 after having acquired a very large amount of real estate, most of it from Grants of the Lords Proprietary of Maryland many of his Surveys being at the present time among the most valuable lands in Anne Arundel County. He served for many years as a Burgess in the General Assembly. He had three children, Caleb, Edward and Deborah, Edward died in the lifetime of his father, leaving Edward and John.[?]

Caleb married Eleanor Warfield and died at an advanced age leaving a large property, as well as a large family.

John, son of Edward married Honor --- whose daughter Susannah married Levin Lawrence,"

The Towneley Arms are quartered with those of D'Arcy, as is of record in the College of Arms, London. It is possible that the descendants of Levin Lawrence through the family of Dorsey, or D'Arcy, may be descended from the Townley family. The descendants of Levin Lawrence are among the best citizens of Kentucky; and, while engaged in tracing their pedigree, they assisted me in my search by every means in their power.

Another Lawrence family, not heretofore mentioned, descends from Thomas Laurenzen, who married, June 9, 1663, Marritje Jans (widow of Cornelis Van Langvelt), and have also had the tradition of a Lawrence-Townley alliance. But the members of this family now living are convinced that such a tradition had no foundation in fact.

Thomas Laurenzen above was from Groningen in Holland; and, upon his admission to the Dutch Church in New York in 1662, he was styled "Thomas Laurenzen, Poppinga" which has puzzled his descendants of the present generation. His son, Baptized Laurens Thomassen, married May 10, 1687, Catharine Lewis. She died Sep. 15, 1702, and her descendants are scattered throughout the States of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio. Thomas Laurenzen belonged to the family of Adolphus Laurens, who in 1660 was Registrar and Burgomeister of Groningen in Holland, and who used a seal similar to the one now in possession of the descendants of the said Thomas.

Hannah Lawrence [see William Lawrence line] of New Jersey, who, December 8, 1771, married Richard Chamberlin of the same State, and Elizabeth Lawrence, who, July 26 1756, married David Olden, both of New Jersey, were descended from an ancestor totally distinct from any heretofore referred to, who came to this country about the middle of the seventeenth century. The same Lawrence-Townley alliance has been of tradition in this family, but without foundation.

There was a Joseph Lawrence [see Wisset line] with wife Mary living in Plainfield, and Killingly, Conn., in the early part of the eighteenth century. Said Mary survived her husband, and drew her will March 7, 1765 which was proved April 10, 1769. In it she mentions her daughter Mary and her grandchildren "Rachel Lawrence, Abigail Cady, Experience Williams, Relief Lawrence, Sarah Williams, Barcilla Gallup, Joseph Lawrence, Thomas Lawrence and Josiah Lawrence to each of them a bible." Her daughter Mary married for her first husband Lemuel Dean, and after his decease she married John Williams, through which marriages the same Lawrence-Townley-marriage story has found its way into Warren, Williams, and Dean families of New England and the West. The said Joseph Lawrence of Plainfield, Conn., and Daniel Lawrence of Killingly, Conn. (whose descendants, have had the same story), are probably descended from John Lawrence of Watertown, Mass.

The descendants of Jacob Lawrence and of Timothy Tallman of Fishkill, N.Y., have the same story. These families, as well as the Willett family, descend from one of the three immigrants, John, Thomas, or William Lawrence, of Long Island, and none of their

ancestors married Mary Townley.

The Mackoy family of Kansas have had this same story with, the variation that Mary, daughter of John Lawrence and Mary Townley, married their ancestor Charles Gresham, with whom she lived in King William County, Va.; and that a daughter born of this marriage became the wife of ,their, great-grandfather, which is entirely a mistake.

Others of the Lawrence family, living in Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, and the Canadas, who trace their pedigree to Richard Lawrence of Richmond County, N.Y., have the same story, namely, that he married Mary Townley of Lancashire, which is also erroneous.

The descendants of Thomas, William, and Aquilla Chase have likewise been enthusiastic in the belief that it was one of their ancestors who married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Townley of Lancashire. They have been encouraged in this belief by designing men, and they do not descend from any of the Townley family. I cannot show any proof that Thomas, William, and Aquilla Chase were related to the grandparents of Richard Chase who married Margaret Townley, as I have not devoted my time and labor in that direction; but it is a likely supposition that they were so related, and that thus has come down to the present generation the tradition of the marriage of Lady Townley with one of their ancestors, together with the tradition of an estate in England belonging to them in consequence of such marriage.

From the preceding, the reader will note that the tradition of the marriage of Mary Townley of Lancashire to a Lawrence and a Chase (which I have shown to be false), has found its way into a number of families in this country. It is probable that the first interest in a property in England, belonging to a Chase family of America, began in 1735, when the will of Francis Townley (see pedigree, branch D) was contested by his sister Honor Hodgson, and other members of his family. Jeremiah, the father of Margaret Townley, who married Richard Chase, was only brother to the said Francis; and although Jeremiah was dead at the time of this suit, the property of his brother Francis, a part of it at least, should have descended to his daughter and only child, instead of falling to an entire stranger.

It is also probable that in 1796, when the properties of Royle and Greenfield, for want of an heir male, reverted to Anne Townley, who married Robert Parker, the descendants then living of Col. Richard Townley of New Jersey, and of Margaret (Townley) Chase of Maryland, as well as of Joseph Lawrence of Long Island, became somewhat excited over the event, and that such excitement extended to the various branches of the Lawrence and Chase families of America.

A new interest may have been aroused when; on Tuesday, June 11, 1822, "The London Times "printed the following:

"Parliamentary Intelligence, House of Commons Mon. June 10. Sir Robert Wilson said that a certain sum of money had been left by a Col. Townley for the benefit of widows of certain officers. He wished to know why the testators Will had not been yet carried into execution though the testator had died some years ago. Sir Charles Long said that the

£10,000 had been left to the Secretary at War for the widows of Captains, lieutenants, & ensigns, but that it had been necessary to take legal opinion as to the mode of proceeding; and the result, was that certain formalities must be gone through which required all the time that had since elapsed."

It has been frequently stated by parties in America that "The London Times" had years ago referred to a Townley estate dealt with by the House of Commons.

The above is the only reference, that I have been able to find, in support of such a statement, for which reason I have quoted it.

It has grown to be a nuisance to our foreign representatives in London, that they are constantly receiving letters about some estate that the writers fancy themselves entitled to. If the writers of such letters would only *think* before doing so, they would discover that the United States of America does not allow its representatives abroad any time or latitude for attending to such business.

There are also many who think they are entitled to money in the Bank of England. The Bank of England has under its control millions of dollars in unclaimed dividends. Now, suppose a person has good grounds for believing that he is entitled to a portion of these dividends; then the proper course to be pursued is for him to trace his pedigree to the one from whom he claims descent. If such pedigree is approved by the "College of Arms in London, then the matter can be brought before the Court of Directors of the Bank of England, and the money can be obtained.

I cannot close this volume without referring in brief to an opinion, that has taken hold of the minds of many, that some of my predecessors have been bought off from giving the heirs the true facts in the case. I undertook the work I have performed for the purpose of discovering if there were any grounds for the American traditions, and with a determination to carry it through to a finish, and present the actual facts to the public. Of course I labored hoping for a financial reward, which I have not obtained; and I can assure my readers, that any insinuations that either my predecessors or myself have been bought off, are as false as they are base.

In closing I wish to thank each and everyone who have in any way aided me in my efforts; and, if the facts which I have collected with much labor will prevent the public in future from paying any attention to the statements that I have shown to be false, I shall feel that my work has not been entirely in vain.

NOTE. -Those of the descendants of Robert and Mary Stevens (as well as their representatives) who have aided me in my work, will receive a copy of this book *free gratis*.

Those descendants of Col. Richard Townley, of New Jersey, and those descendants of Margaret (Townley) Chase, of Maryland, who have deeded to Dr. Alfred Shepherd and myself, will receive a copy of this book *free gratis*.

To all others, the price of this book, *with the pedigrees*, will be \$4 per copy. For the book, *without the pedigrees*, the price will be \$3 per copy. For the pedigrees alone, the price will be \$2 each. Address the author, P.O. Box No. 1912, BOSTON, MASS..

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